Princess Ai™

Luminaiton

2

By Misaho Kujiradou, Courtney Love & D.J. Milky

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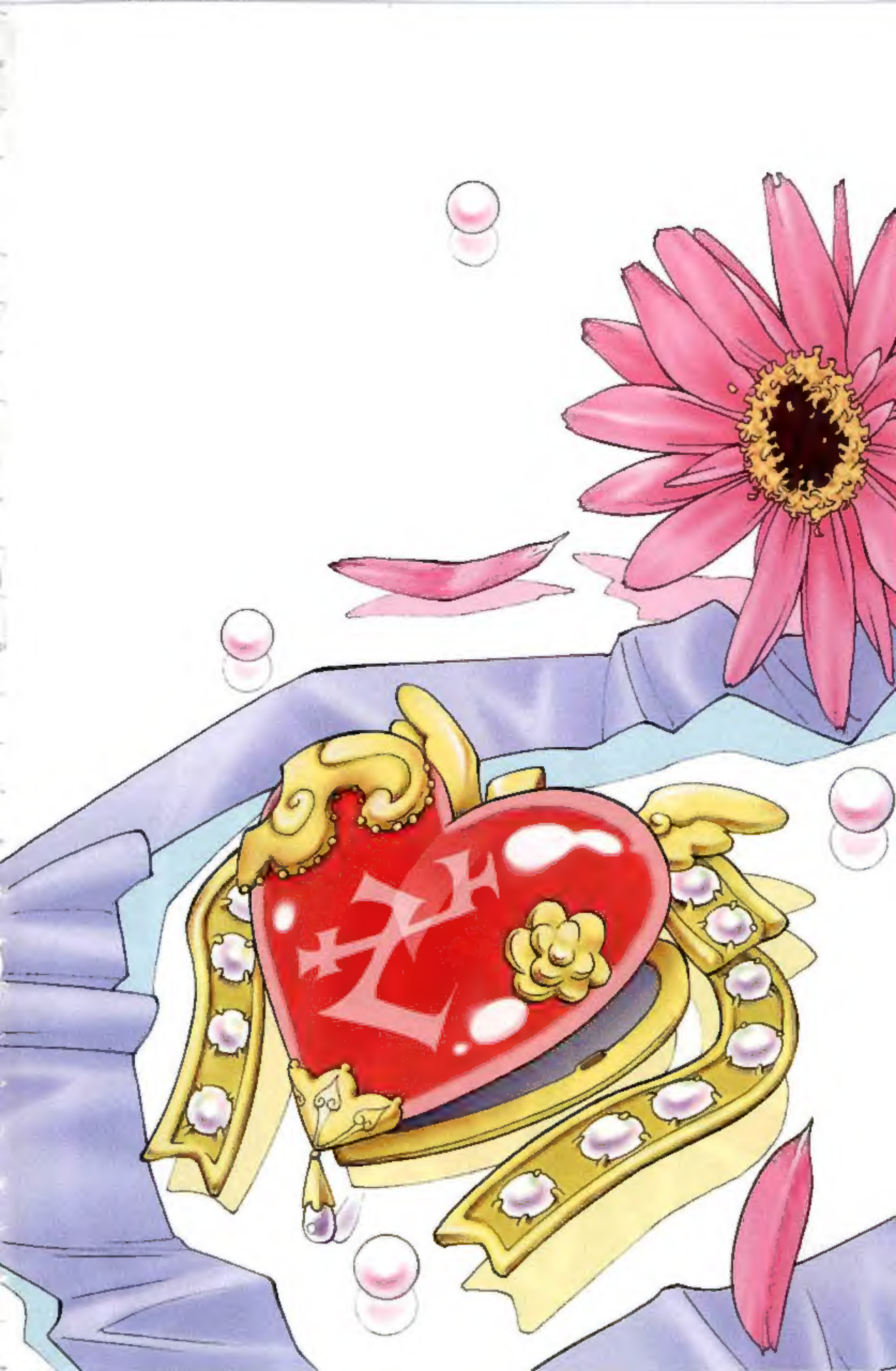

THESE WINGS OF MINE...
...I HATE
THEM!
THESE UGLY, NASTY APPENDAGES... I FELT AN OVERWHELMING NEED TO HIDE THEM AWAY.

THAT IS, UNTIL YOUR WARM WORDS ECHOED INSIDE ME.
YOU WERE ABLE TO LOOK RIGHT THROUGH ME, KENT.

Princess Ai
TM

VOLUME 2: LUMINATION

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TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Princess Ai

Story Thus Far

Not long ago, in the Shinjuku section of Tokyo, a beautiful young woman awoke in a shabby alley to find her clothes–and her memory–in tatters. Wandering into the night, she discovered that she knew three things for sure: her name was Ai, she was not from Earth, and she was looking for something...but she didn't know what.

Before she could get far, a young thief snatched her one valuable possession: an ornate, heart-shaped box. Ai's pursuit of the thief was cut short when Kent–a handsome, young, college librarian for Shinjuku University–tackled the robber for her. What Kent didn't know is that the thief was already mysteriously weakened...though he was far too taken by Ai's beauty and charm to dwell on the passed-out perp.

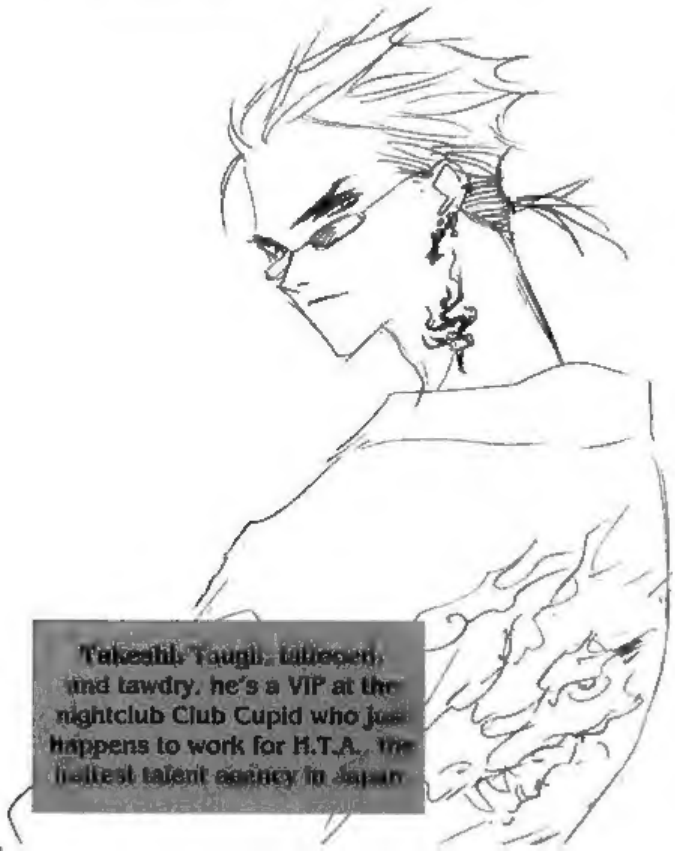
With nowhere to go, Ai accompanied Kent to the Shinjuku University library. Kent and Ai grew closer to one another as the evening progressed, and Kent gave Ai a tour of his workplace. Ai searched through the library in an attempt to jog her memory, and found a mysterious, old,

Princess Ai: A beguiling woman with an outrageous fashion sense, a voice like an angel, and a mind all her own.

very well be pursuing her, Ai hid in the park near Shinjuku University library and fell asleep. Kent found Ai in the park the following morning and took her back to the apartment he shared with his jealous, gay roommate Hikaru. Though Hikaru despised Ai on sight, Kent still gave her a key to the apartment so she could come and go as she pleased.

Ai spent the following day at the library, where the special book led her to a vision of her father and a glimpse of Ai-Land, the kingdom for which she was named. That night, Ai debuted at Club Cupid and caught the eye of Takeshi, a talent scout for Hayabusa Talent Agency (H.T.A.). Ai's performance brought the patrons at Club Cupid to their feet...and Takeshi to the office of H.T.A.'s founder.

Meanwhile, in Ai-Land, Kaz, one of the Angels in charge of the Second Revolution, quarreled with Nora, his cousin and co-conspirator. Kaz took Nora to task for Nora's soft stance on Humans in general and Ai in particular. In return, Nora chastised Kaz for sending the dragon-winged Furie known as Tess after Ai...though there seemed to be nothing Nora or Kaz could do other than wait for news from the Other Side.



Takeshi: Tough, tattooed, and tawdry, he's a VIP at the nightclub Club Cupid who just happens to work for H.T.A., the hottest talent agency in Japan.

Kent: A sweet, guitar-playing college librarian who offered Ai his home and his heart to keep her safe.

unmarked book full of blank pages. As she concentrated on the book, a faint image of a crest began to appear on one page...but exhaustion took its toll and Ai fell asleep before she could learn more.

Awakened by loudspeaker announcements that the library was closing, Ai wandered back into the night. Hungry, Ai met men who were more than willing to buy her food, but she was unwilling to give them the kind of reciprocation they desired. Resolving to earn a living on her own terms, Ai met Fa'an, a street performer with a guitar, and began to sing along with him. As she sang, she remembered that, in her homeland, music and song were always a part of her. By the song's end, Ai had attracted a small crowd and Fa'an had raised ten times his usual income. One member of the crowd was an employee of Club Cupid, a high-class burlesque club. Ai refused to strip, but promised the club's manager that he wouldn't regret letting her sing.

Ai made a deal to sing on the following night, but she still had no money and nowhere to go. Worse still, the gems on her heart shaped box began to flash as if to warn her. Realizing that someone from her homeland could

Closing in on Ai, Tess detected Ai's scent on Kent and attacked him while he was taking a break at work. Refusing to tell Tess where to find Ai, Kent slammed Tess in the face with his guitar. Before Kent could make a clean getaway, the Furie managed to scratch his neck with her talons. Returning home, Kent asked Ai for information about Tess, but Ai decided she'd protect him best by leaving.

Walking the streets, Ai bumped into Fa'an. The enigmatic street musician gave her a special key that opened her seemingly impenetrable heart-shaped box. Inside the box, Ai discovered a beautiful heart-shaped pendant. Before she could question Fa'an about the key, Ai was interrupted by Takeshi, who wanted Ai to sign a deal with H.T.A. Though only distracted for a moment, when Ai turned to look for Fa'an, all she found was a single anemone where he had been sitting.

Ai refused Takeshi's offer of employment and she moved into a shabby hotel, only to be attacked by Tess. During the struggle with the Furie, Ai's shirt was torn, revealing two small, white wings on her shoulder blades. Even with Kent's help, Ai barely escaped from Tess...and Ai realized she needed the kind of security and protection that H.T.A. could provide.

That night, Takeshi brought Hayabusa to see Ai perform at Club Cupid. Tess attacked Ai during the show, but Ai--with Takeshi's help--escaped once again. Face-to-face with Hayabusa, Ai agreed to sign with H.T.A., though she couldn't help but wonder if she was merely running away again... and if her search would always force her to be alone.

Hikaru: Kent's jealous and possessive gay roommate, he hated Princess Ai on sight. Though Hikaru is in love with Kent, Kent has not returned Hikaru's affections. Yet

Jen: The one singer at Club Cupid who takes the time to befriend Ai.

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CHAPTER

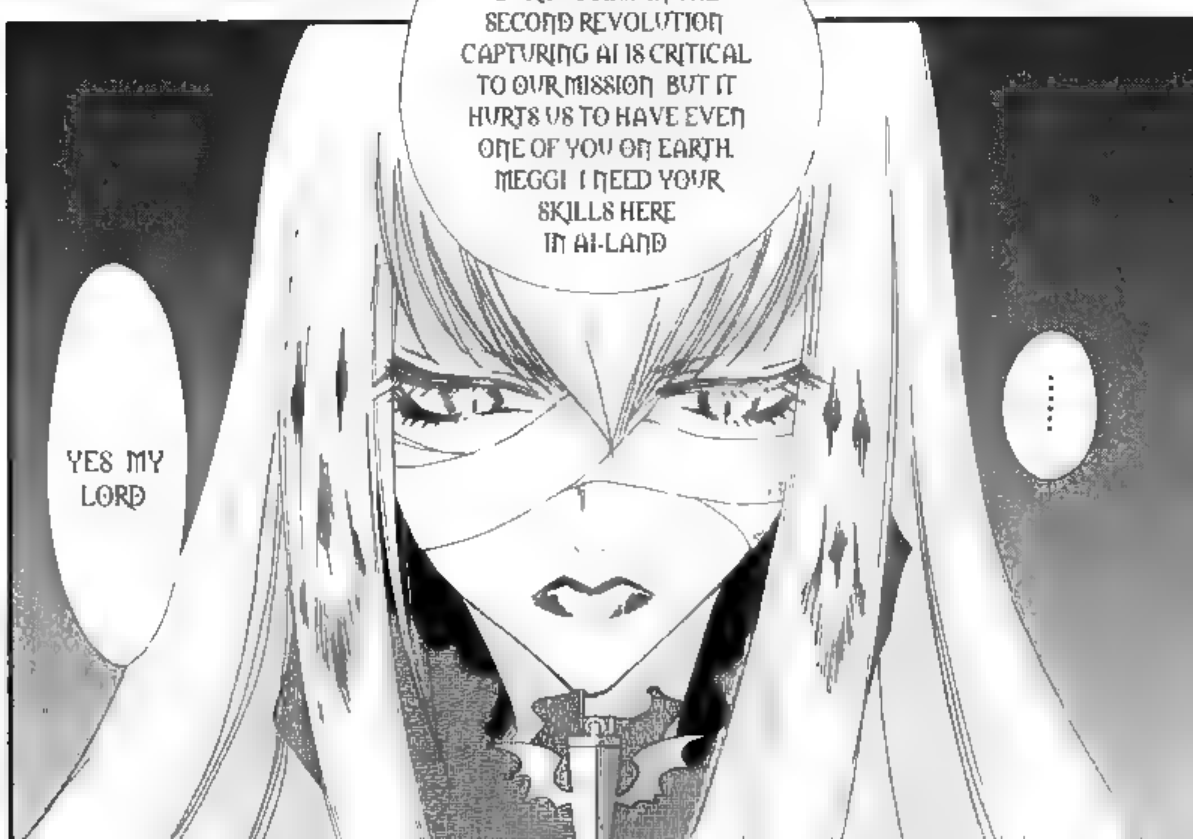
6

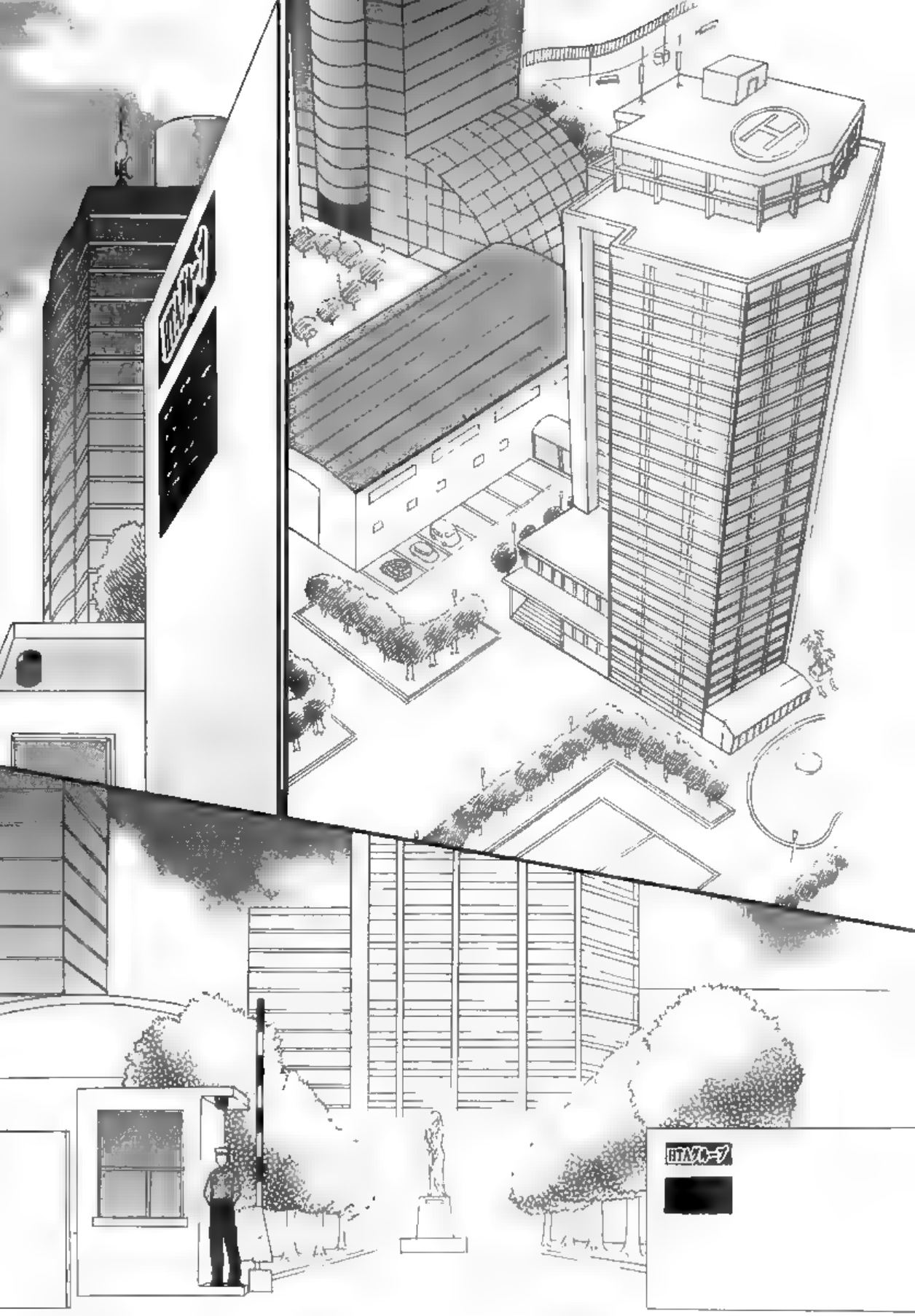
THOSE DREADFUL HUMANS
HOW THEY FRUSTRATE ME!
THESE WINGS THAT I'VE HATED SO MUCH...
...SINCE YOU SAID THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL... NOW THEY'RE NOT SO BAD.

MEGGI
,
MY POOR TIRED LORD
I'M AT YOUR SERVICE, MY LORD

ONLY BY CAPTURING THEIR PRECIOUS PRINCESS AI WILL WE BREAK THE HUMANS DOWN
THE HUMANS HAVE PUSHED US BACK
NORA'S BECOME WEAK - DISTRACTED WITH PETTY EMOTION
TIME S RUNNING OUT WHAT IS IT WITH TESS" I M BEGINNING TO LOSE MY PATIENCE WITH HER
MY LORD PLEASE LET ME SERVE YOUR NEEDS AND CAPTURE THE EVIL HUMAN PRINCESS WHO HAS TEMPTED NORA

YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS REFRESHING BUT I MUST GIVE TESS ONE MORE CHANCE
MEGGI..


ALL OF THE FURIES ARE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS IN THE SECOND REVOLUTION CAPTURING AI IS CRITICAL TO OUR MISSION BUT IT HURTS US TO HAVE EVEN ONE OF YOU ON EARTH. MEGGI I NEED YOUR SKILLS HERE IN AI-LAND
YES MY LORD
.....


HTAグループ

H.T.A. TREATS THEIR ARTISTS SO WELL--PUTTING THEM UP IN SUCH BEAUTIFUL LUXURY CONDOS.
ピッ
20 40
9 39
8 38
7 37

PRINCESS?
AWWIGOD!
YOU IN THERE?
knock
knock
I'M BACK FROM THE STORE, PRINCESS! ♡
PRINCESS AI...?

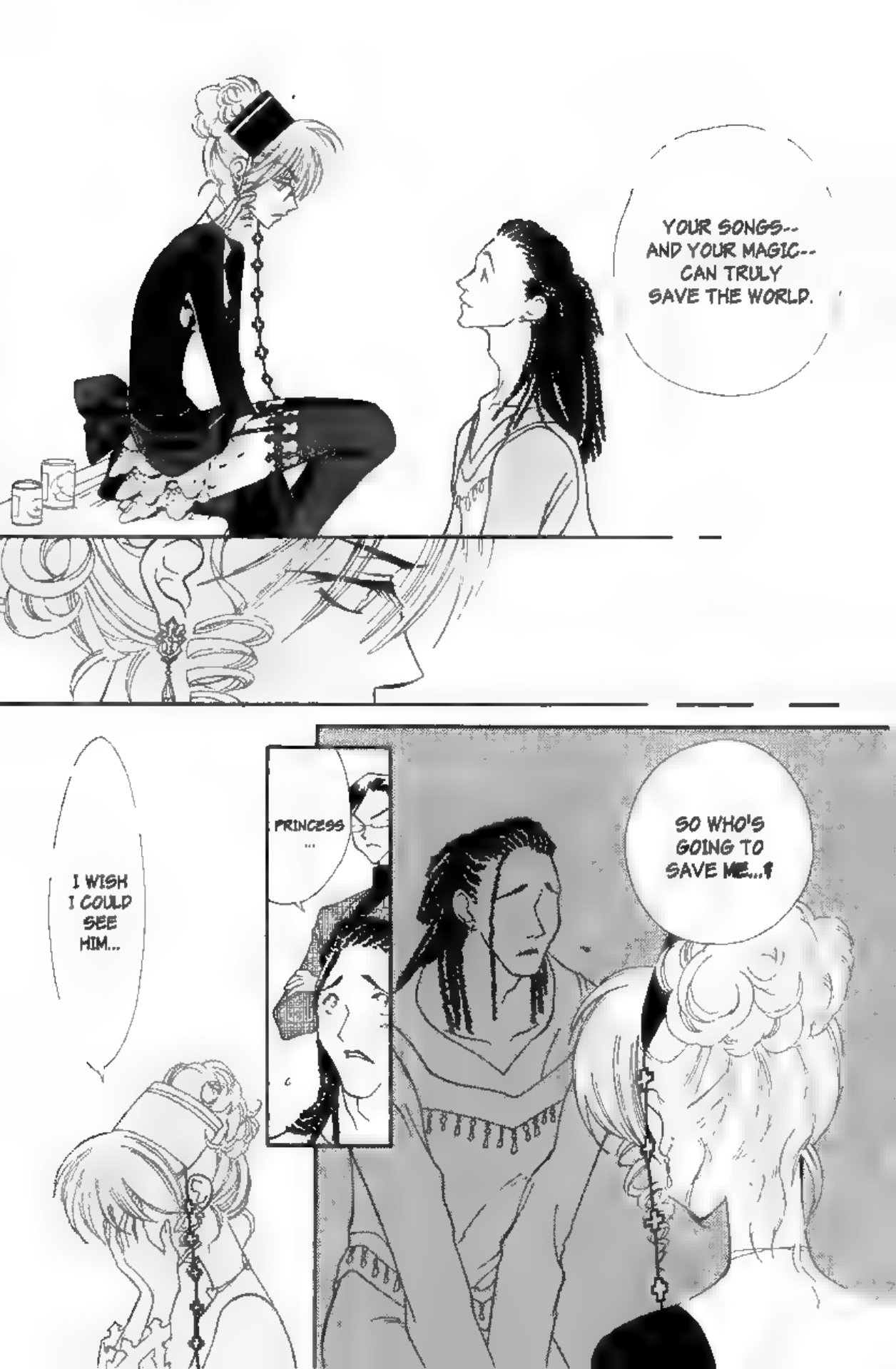
ガチッ
シュー
UH OH... BUSTED...
YOU'RE GOING TO SERIOUSLY INJURE YOURSELF! GET UP HERE!
yank
HEY! NOT SO FAST, YOSHI--I'M LOSING MY BALANCE!
OH NOOOO! PRINCESS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!
AWMIGOD!

YIKES!
WASH!
UPSY-DAISY!
ZIP
ZIP
WHAT'S ALL THE COM-MOTION?
PRINCESS? YOSHI?
BUT THE PRINCESS WANTED SOME SPECIAL HERB TEA, AND I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP...
sob
YOSHI, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LET AI OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.
sniffle
PRINCESS, WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS CAUSING PROBLEMS?!
huff
huff
huff
Hiro got suckered into helping.

I SIGNED ON TO BE A SINGER-- NOT A PRISONER.
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR LOCKING ME UP HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
IT'S TIME THAT YOU FOCUS ON YOUR SONGWRITING AND MUSIC OBLIGATIONS, PRINCESS.
SCREW THAT FIRE-SPITTING, DRAGON-WINGED WITCH!
HMPH.
--WE NEED TO PROTECT YOU FROM THE STALKER THAT IS AFTER YOU-- SO ALL OF H.T.A. HAS BEEN PUT ON RED ALERT WITH TOP SECURITY FOR YOUR SAFETY!
TAKESHI'S ORDERS WERE VERY STRICT--
THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, PRINCESS.
POOR YOSHI-- HE MEANS WELL.

"PRINCESS," "PRINCESS"-- WHAT A JOKE!
IT'S BEEN WEEKS NOW SINCE I SIGNED WITH H.T.A.--
B-BUT YOU ARE A PRINCESS-- PRINCESS AI!
--I'VE MET MY OBLIGATIONS-- WROTE A BUNCH OF SONGS, DID INTERVIEWS, WHATEVER!
YEAH, RIGHT. BECAUSE HAYABUSA SAYS SO, RIGHT?!
STOP USING THAT WORN-OUT LINE FOR ONCE!
I'VE GOT STUFF I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF. GET ME HAYABUSA!
HE'S A VERY BUSY GUY...
FINE-- GET ME TAKESHI!
PRIN-CESS, PLEASE.
...HAYABUSA REALLY WANTS YOUR DEBUT ALBUM TO BE PERFECT-- THERE'S NO HOT DIVA RIGHT NOW, SO THE WORLD IS READY FOR YOU.

ストン
Hey, Yoshi- put me down!
HERE ...
...I WANT TO HELP YOU, BUT YOU HAVE TO OPEN UP TO ME. DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
YOU'RE SO SPECIAL.
WHEN YOU SING--YOUR SONGS--IT'S LIKE MAGIC.
I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE FEELING I GET WHEN I LISTEN TO YOU SING.
IT'S NOT JUST ME-- YOU HAVE A SPECIAL POWER.
HAYABUSA WANTS ME TO BE A DIVA SO HE CAN MAKE MONEY.
LIKE I CARE!
I LOVE TO SING...
...BUT I DON'T CARE ABOUT FAME OR ATTENTION-- I'VE GOT OTHER STUFF ON MY MIND!


YOUR SONGS-- AND YOUR MAGIC-- CAN TRULY SAVE THE WORLD.
I WISH I COULD SEE HIM...
PRINCESS ...
SO WHO'S GOING TO SAVE ME...?

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU WANT TO SEE?
DON'T SPOIL HER, YOSHI.
Heavy object
WOULD YOU LET ME? REALLY ...?
FOR YOU, PRINCESS-- OF COURSE. WHO IS IT?
I KNOW I'M SUPPOSED TO CONTROL MY EMOTIONS-- IF I LET MYSELF GIVE IN, KENT WILL JUST BE IN MORE DANGER..
UM...
WELL....
I WANT TO SEE... KE-- I MEAN-- JEN.
OKAY.

NO PROBLEMS AT TODAY'S RECORDING SESSION?
SO, PRINCESS, WILL YOU BE A GOOD GIRL TODAY?
YOSHI-- USE A LEASH OR CHAINS IF YOU HAVE TO, BUT LET'S GO.
ENOUGH OF THIS LOVEY-DOVEY BABBLE. WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO-- AND WE'RE LATE.
.....
NO PROMISES.
Uh oh...
--I'LL BITE YOU!
NEXT TIME YOU THREATEN ME--
RIP
RIP
YOU JUST DID BITE ME. AND YOU TORE UP MY SCHEDULE!
OWWW!!
WHY, YOU--!!

OH, AND BY THE WAY, TAKESHI'S COMING TO THE STUDIO TODAY.
IS THAT SOME SORT OF FLASHBACK...?!
Are you okay Hiro?
CHAINS...?
AI-- DON'T YOU DARE CAUSE A SCENE!
YOSHI, LET'S GO!
Yes, ma'am!
AI!!
WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER?!
HE'S JUST THERE TO WATCH YOUR RECORDING SESSION--NOT TO GET INTO ANYTHING.
Hmph.

*Sign: Shinjuku University Library

GET LOST, DAI-SUKE.
STAMP
STAMP
THEN WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME HER PHONE NUMBER?!
UH, KENT... YOU'RE STAMPING UPSIDE DOWN...
.....
OOPS.

TODAY'S SESSION IS CRITICAL, SINCE WE GO INTO FINAL MIXING TOMORROW. RADIO AIRPLAY STARTS THE FOLLOWING DAY.
WE'VE GOT TO SHOOT THE MUSIC VIDEO TOMORROW TO GET IT TO THE NETWORKS.
WE SHOOT EARLY...
OOH-- I'M SICK OF YOUR SCHEDULES. GIVE ME SOME TIME OFF!
TAKESHI PLANS ALL THE SCHEDULES, SO WE CAN'T CHANGE THEM. SORRY, PRINCESS.
IT'S DEFINITELY TIGHT, BUT WITH SOME EFFORT AND FOCUS, IT'S DOABLE.
HE'S DEAD.
SINCE I'VE ARRIVED AT THIS PLACE, THAT DRAGON-WINGED WITCH HASN'T FOUND ME. BUT STILL...
...I'M GOING NUTS BEING TRAPPED HERE.

DROWN!!
SPLASH
HEY, GUYS!
AGGH!
Gasp!
PRINCESS, YOU'LL HURT HIM!
TODAY'S YOUR FINAL RECORDING SESSION FOR THE FIRST SINGLE.
She's always so violent...
I'M HERE TO GIVE YOU EMOTIONAL SUPPORT-- CAN'T YOU AT LEAST BE A LITTLE EXCITED TO SEE ME?

EXCITED?! I'LL SHOW YOU EXCITED! I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, AND YOU'D BETTER LISTEN GOOD!
I THINK I LIKED IT BETTER WHEN YOU WERE DROWNING ME.
WHAT--?
YOSHI, YOU FREAK, BACK OFF!
WOW, TAKESHI-- YOU'VE GOT AMAZING TATTOOS!
Relax, Takeshi- I like my men with pecs.
ドキドキ
WHY IS MY HEART SUDDENLY BEATING SO FAST...?

AN ANGEL...
AN ANGEL...
SOMETHING ABOUT THAT IMAGE-- IT MAKES ME FEEL FUNNY...
I HEARD THE SCRATCH MIX OF "ON YOUR LEASH." GREAT DEBUT SINGLE!
DEFINITE HEAVY ROTATION...
TAKESHI, YOU REALLY THINK SO?
YOU CHANGED THE TITLE TO "ON YOUR LEASH?!"

I'M NOT SOME SUBMISSIVE SEX SLAVE.
THAT'S WHAT YOU-- AND ALL MEN-- SEEM TO WANT!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THIS ISN'T A GAME FOR ME.
THAT SONG'S CALLED "BROKEN LEASH"-- NOT "ON YOUR LEASH."
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT? WE'RE MAKING YOU A STAR!
WHAT GOOD IS STARDOM IF I CAN'T EVEN GO TO THE LIBRARY?
THAT'S THE POINT. IT'S ALL I CAN THINK OF-- BREAKING AWAY FROM THIS LEASH H.T.A. PUT ON ME!
"BROKEN LEASH" SOUNDS SO... REBELLIOUS.

YOU WANT TO GO THERE FOR A DIFFERENT REASON.
NOT JUST ANY LIBRARY-- SHINJUKU UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO GO THERE TO BORROW BOOKS.
We offered to buy you some, and you said no...
LIKE MAYBE THE GUY WHO WORKS THERE?
YEAH, I KNOW.
SHUT UP! I DON'T WANT TO GO THERE TO SEE HIM. I'M LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL BOOK--THAT I CAN ONLY FIND THERE!
HUH?!

PRINCESS, DEAR-- PLEASE CALM DOWN.
AND EVEN IF I *DID* WANT TO SEE HIM-- IT'S NONE OF YOUR GODDAMN BUSINESS!
IT'S SO EXCITING-- YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE HOTTEST DIVA TO DEBUT EVER!
I READ THE ARTICLE ABOUT YOU IN *YOUNG PEOPLE* MAGAZINE.
UM, EXCUSE ME...
ONE DAY I WANT TO BE A FAMOUS SINGER--JUST LIKE YOU! CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
IT'S MARIKA-- THE CHILD STAR.

I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.
NOW?
MAYBE I SHOULD BE NICER-- AFTER ALL, SHE'S JUST A KID.
HERE, GIVE ME THAT. WHAT DO I DO-- JUST SIGN MY NAME?
YES, RIGHT HERE-- PLEASE SIGN "PRINCESS AI."
THANK YOU!
Th-thump

IS YOUR BACK ITCHY?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
YOU GET TO MAKE TONS OF FANS HAPPY. IT'S NOT SO BAD, EH?
SEE? THAT'S ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF BEING FAMOUS.

BUT PRINCESS AI ISN'T IN THE MOOD TO SING TODAY, HIRO...
We'll lose our studio time!
THAT'S IT, ALREADY. NO MORE DELAYS!

...BUT, FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL LIKE SINGING NOW.
I NEED TO GET ON WITH MY SEARCH-- TO LEARN WHY I RAN AWAY FROM MY WORLD...

I FEEL A BIT... WARM...
And why does my back keep itching?
HOW WEIRD...
SCRATCH

THE TRUTH IS... I LOVE TO SING.
LET'S GO, GUYS! WE'RE LATE FOR THE STUDIO!
Huh?!
EVERYONE READY? THIS SESSION'S GONNA KICK ASS!
WE'RE ON IT!
MY SONG-- IT'S COMING TO ME, FLOWING UP THROUGH MY VEINS, THROUGH MY HEART...
THE MUSIC-- I CAN HEAR IT.
LEVEL'S FINE.
MIC CHECK-- ONE, TWO.
THEY CALL THESE "CANS," RIGHT?
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

Wow!
Tied up with knots that won't unwind,
Fed up with cruel dreams acting kind.
!
Not ready to jump, but I won't look down,
All ready to dump everything around .
THEY'RE FEELING MY ENERGY-- AND THEIR FEELINGS ARE INCREASING MY OWN INTENSITY.
I CAN FEEL EVERYONE WATCHING.
There's no looking back,
That one shot at freedom through the looking glass,
No more broken beast,
Just rip off this collar with that broken leash!

11th Flutter

WHAT A STRANGE FEELING...
MY SONG...
...MAYBE THIS IS WHAT I'VE COME HERE TO FIND... MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS MAGICAL POWER...
...THERE REALLY IS A POWER HERE, SOME SORT OF MAGIC.

SO, HIRO-- WHAT'S YOUR REPORT? IS THE ALBUM READY YET?
Beep
Beep
I GUESS SHE REALLY BELIEVES HER STAGE NAME "PRINCESS AI"--SHE CERTAINLY ACTS LIKE ONE.
SHE DOES WHAT SHE WANTS, SAYS WHAT SHE WANTS, THINKS WHAT SHE WANTS..
I CAN'T CONTROL HER, SIR.
AH, A HIGH-MAINTENANCE DIVA, EH? WELL, DON'T WORRY-- THE TIMING IS PERFECT FOR A DIVA WITH SOME CONTROVERSY.
THE FANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIVA-- BUT THIS ONE WILL BE THE MOST SCANDALOUS OF ALL. IN FACT, THE SCANDALS WILL BEGIN BEFORE THE FANS EVEN KNOW THEY ARE FANS THIS WILL BE MY GREATEST PLAN EVER!
OUR LITTLE PRINCESS IS BEHAVING JUST AS I HAD HOPED.

CHAPTER

7

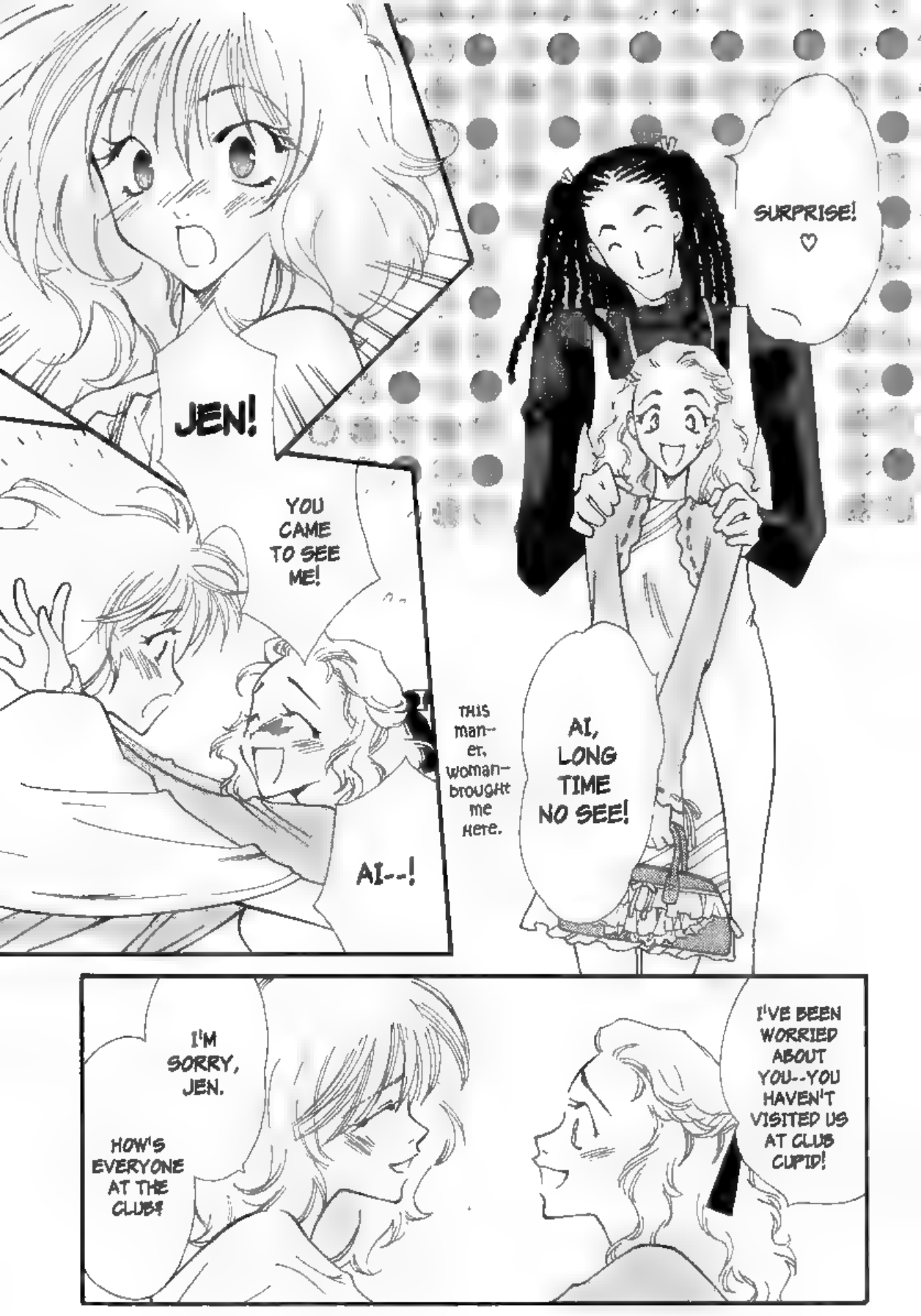
第7話

Ice pack
OF COURSE, HIRO. WE'LL PULL AN ALL-NIGHTER AND PUT THIS BABY IN THE CAN. HERE-- HAVE SOME CAFFEINE.
YOU BOOKED THE EDITING BAY FOR THE ENTIRE NIGHT, RIGHT?
...AND WE'VE GOT TO GET THE MUSIC VIDEO OUT TO THE NETWORKS AS WELL.
NO SLEEP UNTIL DAWN.
TOMORROW, THE SINGLE SHIPS OUT TO THE RADIO STATIONS...

YEAH, BUT THIS PROJECT'S THE BIGGEST IN PRODUCTION. HAYABUSA AND TAKESHI ARE REALLY INTO THIS CHICK.
MAN, I'VE BEEN ON FOUR DIFFERENT SETS FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT.
Hey, that Ai CHICK is pretty hot -
HERE
I THINK I'M GONNA FALL OVER.
IS THIS HER SONG?
Tied up with knots that won't unwind
Fed up with cruel dreams acting kind
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD IT YET? THIS THING ROCKS!
!
DOES IT EVER...
MAN, WITH THIS SONG AND THE RED COW, I'M GOOD TO GO!

← The director
THAT'S IT! THAT'S IT! DAH-LIN, YOU'RE MAH-VELOUS! ♡
H.T.A. models on the lot
HAVE YOU GUYS HEARD THE RUMOR? THEY SAY THOSE WINGS AREN'T JUST PART OF HER COSTUME-- THEY'RE REAL!
GET REAL! THAT WOULD MAKE HER, LIKE, NOT HUMAN, Y'KNOW?
THE RAGS WILL WRITE ANYTHING TO SELL COPIES.
WELL, I HOPE THE RUMOR'S TRUE-- THOSE WINGS LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL ON PRINCESS AI!
GET A LIFE!

...AND YOU'RE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, PRINCESS.
ONLY A FEW MORE TAKES TO GO, SO HANG IN THERE.
Dressing Room
Princess Aiko
YOU DID GREAT...
THANK YOU.
PRINCESS, I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU.
knock knock
I'LL GET THE DOOR.
I'LL PREPARE YOUR OUTFIT FOR THE NEXT SCENE.


JEN!
YOU CAME TO SEE ME!
AI--!
THIS man--er, woman--brought me here.
AI, LONG TIME NO SEE!
SURPRISE! ♡
I'M SORRY, JEN.
HOW'S EVERYONE AT THE CLUB?
I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU--YOU HAVEN'T VISITED US AT CLUB CUPID!

...I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT IT'S TIME TO SHOOT THE NEXT TAKE.
UM, PRIN-CESS...
PLEASE GET MY FRIEND A CUP OF COFFEE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JOINED H.T.A.--HOW EXCITING!
SAME AS ALWAYS.
WE CAN CATCH UP AFTER YOU'RE DONE FILMING.
AI, IT'S OKAY. I'M FREE TODAY.
HEY, YOSHI-- I HAVEN'T SEEN JEN FOR A LONG TIME. I'LL BE THERE WHEN I'M READY!

Made to feel something inside..
Far too real, too much pain to hide.
Not ready to run, but my feet won't stay,
Already too done for these birds of prey.

AND... CUT!
EVERYONE, TAKE FIVE WHILE WE CHECK THE PLAYBACK ON THE MONITOR.
WHAT A WOMAN...
.....
AI, THAT WAS INCREDIBLE! YOU WERE RADIATING OUT THERE.
NO ONE COULD TAKE THEIR EYES OFF YOU.
thanks, jen.
COME HERE, BOYS.
PLEASE, MA'AM-- KEEP BACK. THE VIDEO SHOOT GOT THEM WOUND UP.
WOOF
WOOF
HELP!
WOOF
WOOF
DOWN, BOYS!

WOW, AI REALLY CALMED THEM DOWN.
わんわん
WHIMPER
!
PRINCESS, THE DIRECTOR WANTS TO DO ONE OR TWO RETAKES.
ALL RIGHT, BUT LET'S HURRY UP AND FINISH IT.
ALL EYES ARE ON ME... IT FEELS SO WARM...
GLOW

Swept away by all his lies.
Kept away while the earth cries.
AI IS THE ROCK DIVA I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR--
WELL, TAKESHI, YOU HAVE TRULY UNCOVERED A GEM HERE.
Not ready to go, but it's time to leave,
Already too low to get up and plead.
--SHE'S PERFECT FOR MY ULTIMATE PRODUCTION.

HEY, KENT!
KEEENNNT!
KENT!
新潟大学図書
Shinyuku University Library
I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE ON MY DAY OFF AND YOU CALL ME AN IDIOT?
HEY, THAT'S NOT NICE.
YOU'RE IN THE LIBRARY-- SHUT UP ALREADY.
TAKE A LOOK!
I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO SEE THIS ARTICLE.
YOUNG P
YOU KNOW THE RULES, DAISUKE. DON'T BE SUCH AN IDIOT!

I SAW A BUDDY OF MINE READING THIS, SO I GRABBED IT.
THIS IS HER, RIGHT?
Princess Ai - Rock Diva from Heaven Here on Earth
Music industry insiders expect the hottest debut album ever
IT'S THAT HOT-LOOKING FOREIGN GIRL YOU LIKED, ISN'T IT?
MAN, YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE HER WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE.
Too late now- she's famous.
COOL NAME, TOO: PRINCESS AI.
SHE IS SO HOT-- YOU BLEW IT, KENT.
DUDE, SHE'S A STAR! PRETTY COOL, EH?
LEVEL 4

HAYABUSA TALENT AGENCY-- THEY MANAGE ALL THE TOP ARTISTS.
YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT H.T.A.?
I thought you were into music, Kent..
SHUT UP ALREADY, DAISUKE. WHAT IS THIS "H.T.A."?
WHAT'S WITH THOSE WINGS ANYWAY?
WINGS...
OOPS...
SO THAT'S WHO THAT ASSHOLE AT THE CLUB WAS...
Myths and Angels
SORRY, MAN. I'LL PICK THEM UP.
HUH?
KENT, I GOTTA GO. FINALLY GOT MYSELF A DATE!
See ya!

ANOTHER ANGEL BOOK?
SOMEONE MUST HAVE JUST FINISHED WRITING A PAPER ON ANGELS.
...HE'D BETTER KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING AND NOT SCREW HER OVER.
THAT H.T.A. JERK...
THIS BOOK LOOKS ANCIENT...
"HUMAN HISTORICAL MYTHS: THE ERA OF THE FIRST AI-LANDIC REVOLUTION."
AI... AI... LAND ...IC...

"THE YOUNG KING SEI MIGHTILY DEFEATED THE DOUGEN BEASTS, QUELLING THEIR REVOLT AND RETURNING THE HUMAN COLONY TO PEACE ONCE AGAIN."
"THE DEVIOUS DOUGEN BEASTS ATTACKED USING POISONOUS EXTRACTS OF ALL KINDS."
AN ANGEL IN A CAGE...
HOW CRUEL...
AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN FIND IN A LIBRARY...
HEY, MAN, YOU CAN'T PLAY GUITAR IN HERE.
RULES SOMETIMES NEED TO BE BROKEN.

PERHAPS SHE WAS LOOKING FOR A BOOK JUST LIKE IT.
.....?
WHAT DO YOU THINK? THAT TITLE, THOSE ILLUSTRATIONS...
WHAT-- WHAT IS THIS BOOK...?
SHE...?
YOU MEAN...
...AI?!

FROM THIS POINT FORWARD, NOTHING WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU.
NOW YOU'VE JOINED HER SEARCH.
DON'T DOUBT WHAT YOU FEEL.
WHAT IF SHE WON'T LET ME HELP HER?
I WOULD JUST GET IN HER WAY.
SHE'S BEYOND ME NOW-- BEYOND ANYTHING I CAN GIVE HER.

HEY, WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY...?
WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IS WITHIN YOUR POWER.
...!
Human Historical Myths
The Era of the First
AI-Landic Revolution

CHAPTER

7

FIN

CHAPTER

8

第6話

KENT!
HM?
カン
カン
たたたたっ
I LOVE COOKING DINNER FOR KENT. ♡
OH NO-- I'M REALLY LATE...
HIKARU
I'VE GOT TO GO RUN AN ERRAND.
ARE YOU GOING OUT?
WHAT ABOUT DINNER? DID YOU ALREADY EAT?
I'LL GET SOMETHING LATER. GO AHEAD AND EAT WITHOUT ME.
BUT I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS...
……
あ
すぅ～

きゃー♡
WHY DON'T WE GO OUT FOR DINNER?
I'LL KEEP YOU COMPANY! ♡
THIS IS A SERIOUS ERRAND, HIKARU.
...WE'RE DOING GREAT AS ROOMMATES.
LET'S NOT PUSH IT FURTHER.
SORRY...
AT LEAST TELL ME WHERE YOU'RE GOING.
WHEN WILL YOU BE BACK?

I'M GOING TO VISIT H.T.A.
I'LL BE BACK LATER.
H.T.A.?
IT'S HER. YOU'RE GOING TO...
YOUNG People
...SEE HER...
HIKARU...

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET IN? H.T.A. IS GUARDED LIKE FORT KNOX.
DID SHE GIVE YOU A PASS?
I NEED TO GIVE AI AN IMPORTANT BOOK.
WILL YOU HELP ME?
PLEASE, HIKARU...
HIKARU?
WHAT?
SIGH
HOW CAN I SAY NO WHEN HE FLASHES ME THAT SEXY, NEEDY POSE?
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
NO, NOTHING. I'M READY TO HELP!
THANKS!

I'VE GOT A ROUGH CUT OF THE "BROKEN LEASH" MUSIC VIDEO.
HI, YOSHI-- I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN...
Hot off the presses!
GO AHEAD AND PUT IT ON.
THE ONE WE SHOT EARLIER TODAY? WOW, THAT'S QUICK TURNAROUND.
PRINCESS, YOU REALLY LOVE THAT WING OUTFIT, DON'T YOU?
Do you even take baths with them on?

Flutter
Flutter
I just haven't told anyone yet...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MY WINGS ARE REAL.
えぇ WHAT!?
FOR SOME REASON, THEY SEEMED SMALLER YESTERDAY.
What do you think, Yoshi?
THEY'RE TINGED WITH RED NOW, TOO. COULD THAT MEAN I'M GETTING SICK?
WELL...I... UM...I DON'T REALLY... KNOW...
PLUS...
...I FEEL THIS STRANGE POWER.
WHEN I SING IN FRONT OF PEOPLE...
...AND FEEL EVERYONE WATCHING...
...IT'S LIKE A KIND OF MAGIC.

What do you think, Yoshi?
WELL... I...UM... I'M NOT... SURE...
I'M STARTING TO THINK THE TWO ARE CONNECTED-- THAT MAGICAL POWER I FEEL AND THE GROWTH OF MY WINGS.
trip
OWW!
HMMmoo
OH NO--MY GLASSES!
↑ Academy Award for Hikaru
DID YOU LOSE YOUR GLASSES, SON?
Here's an orange that fell.
YES, I DID. I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
I'LL HELP YOU LOOK.

I WONDER WHICH BUILDING SHE'S IN...!
I made it this far
THANK YOU, SIR.
NO CLUE...
きっぱり
UM, PRINCESS... CAN I ASK... WHY DO YOU HAVE WINGS?
WHAT?
BY THE WAY, PRINCESS...
IT'LL BE A MAJOR SCANDAL IF ANYONE FINDS OUT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. HOW CAN A PERSON HAVE WINGS...?
EVERYONE THINKS THEY'RE FAKE.

WELL, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY'VE BECOME SO BIG IT'S HARD TO HIDE THEM.
...HOW COME YOU'RE BEING SO BRAZEN WITH YOUR WINGS TODAY?
BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON.
LATELY I'VE FELT SO TRAPPED HERE AT H.T.A.
THAT IS, UNTIL SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL TO ME TOLD ME HOW BEAUTIFUL THEY WERE.
AT FIRST, I WAS ASHAMED OF MY WINGS.
...THEY CALM ME DOWN WHEN I LET THEM BE FREE.
THESE WINGS...

!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING.
WHAT'S THAT MUSIC?
ARE THEY FILMING THIS LATE AT NIGHT?

You're my angel back in heaven,
Lost among the free...
Trapped up in that tower,
Looking down upon my plea...
IT SOUNDS JUST LIKE HIM...
...BUT HE COULDN'T BE HERE.
IS THAT KENT'S... VOICE?
I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING BUT THE TV...
I WANT TO GO OUTSIDE... TO SEE IF IT'S HIM...
...BUT I DECIDED NOT TO SEE HIM ANYMORE!

IT'S STRANGE...
...THE WORD "ANGEL" SOUNDS SO BEAUTIFUL COMING FROM HIM.
If only I could climb up there...
...and sort through your debris...
...BUT DON'T ACTUALLY MEET UP WITH HIM..
IF I JUST SPOT HIM FROM AFAR..
I'd bring this angel back to heaven, For all eternity...
SHUT UP, ALREADY! DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?!
YOSHI, I'M BORROWING YOUR ID CARD!
PRINCESS !!
GUARD, DO YOUR JOB!

slip
HEY, YOU OVER THERE!
UH OH
HUH?
OH, MISS AI!
HE ESCAPED.
CHECK THE VICINITY FOR OTHER SECURITY BREACHES!
WHERE'S THE GUY WHO WAS SINGING?

DID YOU SEE AI?
NO, THE GUARD CAUGHT ME.
WHERE'S THE BOOK?!
HOW STUPID OF ME!
THIS BOOK... DID KENT BRING IT HERE?
OH, KENT...

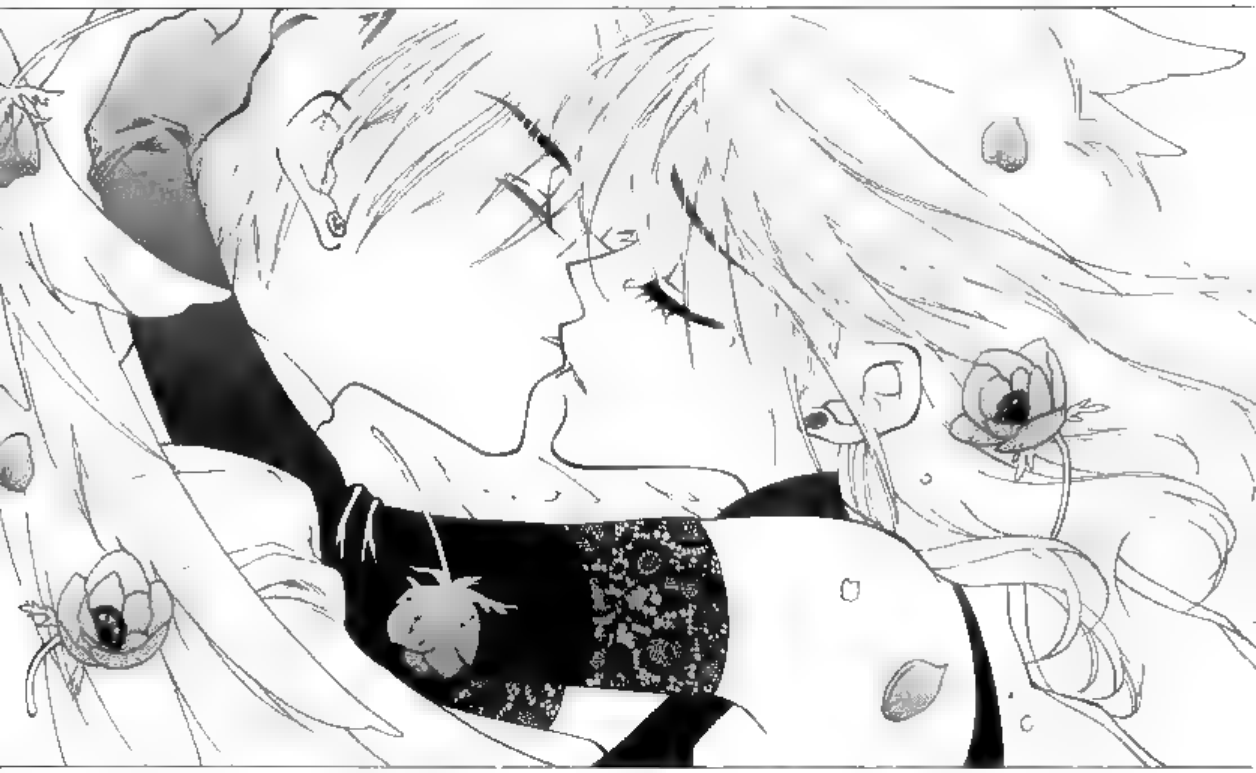
きゃ

THIS HUMAN TYRANNY MUST NOT CONTINUE ANY LONGER.
IT IS TIME WE TAKE BACK OUR BLOOD AS WELL AS OUR FREEDOM.
FINALLY, THE SECOND REVOLUTION BEGINS!!

Ai.
AI..
YOU MUST RUN AWAY

YOU MUST LEAVE AI-LAND
THE TIME IS NOW.
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY-- YOU MUST ESCAPE WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU. BUT YOU MUST GO.
NORA...
I UNDERSTAND YOU--HOW SPECIAL YOU ARE. BUT THE WORLD WILL NOT-- NEITHER MY PEOPLE NOR YOUR OWN.

...I DON'T WANT TO BE APART.

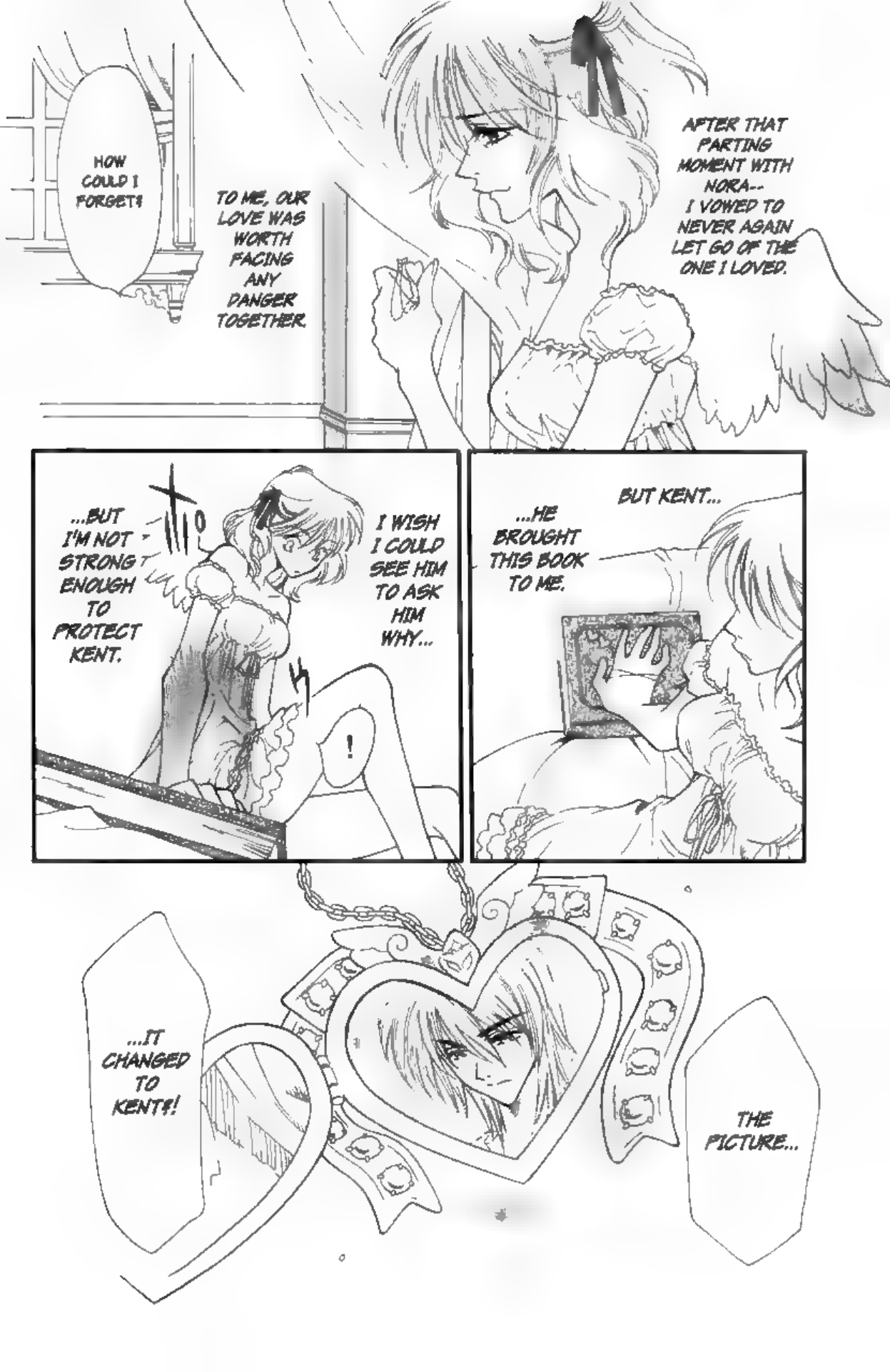


I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE.

I'D RATHER BE WITH YOU THAN BE SAFE.

KENT!
NORA ...?
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, KENT.
I WANT TO BE WITH...
KENT, LET ME GO...
BEING AROUND ME IS VERY DANGEROUS.

blink
WHAT A HORRIBLE DREAM...
HEY, THIS PENDANT OPENS UP...
MY FATHER ...
NORA...
THE TWO MEN IN MY LIFE...
clink
SLIP


HOW COULD I FORGET!
TO ME, OUR LOVE WAS WORTH FACING ANY DANGER TOGETHER.
AFTER THAT PARTING MOMENT WITH NORA-- I VOWED TO NEVER AGAIN LET GO OF THE ONE I LOVED.
...BUT I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT KENT.
I WISH I COULD SEE HIM TO ASK HIM WHY...
!
BUT KENT...
...HE BROUGHT THIS BOOK TO ME.
...IT CHANGED TO KENT!!
THE PICTURE...

SCREW THE BREAKFAST MEETING-- I'M BUSY!
Can't you see?
OH, PRINCESS-- PLEASE!
GOOD MORNING, PRINCESS! ♡
knock
knock
WHY'D IT CHANGE? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?!
WE'VE GOT A BREAKFAST MEETING TO ATTEND.
ARE YOU UP?
COME ON, YOU'VE GOT TO EAT.
YOU'LL MEET UP WITH AI AGAIN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I LOST THE BOOK...
KENT, YOU'VE GOT TO SNAP OUT OF IT.

New Rock Diva Princess Ai
THEY SAY THAT PRINCESS AI IS DEFORMED-- OR MAYBE NOT EVEN HUMAN AT ALL...
THE LATEST RUMOR IS THAT HER WINGS ARE NOT JUST A COSTUME-- BUT REAL APPENDAGES.
THE WHITE-HOT NEW ROCK DIVA IS MAKING A NAME FOR HERSELF BEYOND JUST HER MUSIC.
JUST BUY ANOTHER BOOK...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE SPREADING SUCH A STUPID RUMOR...
LOOK-- IT'S AI.
THOUGH IT MAY SEEM CRAZY, SOME PEOPLE ARE TAKING THIS RUMOR VERY SERIOUSLY
IT JUST GOT ME GOING!
THE MOMENT I HEARD "BROKEN LEASH" ON THE RADIO, I HAD TO RUSH OVER HERE TO GET A COPY.
A LINE OF YOUNG PEOPLE HAS ALREADY FORMED TO BUY PRINCESS AI'S DEBUT CD.
I'M HERE LIVE OUTSIDE A MAJOR RECORD STORE IN TOKYO.

SHE'S THE PRINCESS OF DOOM-- AND THOSE WINGS PROVE THAT SHE'S NOT HUMAN!
THAT MUSIC IS SUNG BY A DEMON!
DON'T LET EVIL INTO YOUR LIFE!
STOP THE DEMONIC MUSIC!
...TO PICKET PRINCESS AI'S SONG AND CD RELEASE.
AT THE SAME TIME, A GROUP OF CULT-LIKE PROTESTORS HAS GATHERED...
THEY'RE THE ONES TO TALK! LOOK AT THOSE WEIRDOS!
AI'S DRAWING TOO MUCH ATTEN-TION TO HERSELF.
HUH?
.....
KENT, WE SHOULD GO TO THAT HEAVEN TONIGHT TAPING.
MAYBE YOU CAN FINALLY SEE AI AGAIN-- LET'S TRY TO GET TICKETS!
MAYBE SHE'LL FLAP HER WINGS FOR US. HEH HEH.
WELL, JUDGE FOR YOURSELF IF PRINCESS AI IS A BLESSING OR A CURSE-- SHE'S PERFORMING LIVE TONIGHT ON THE HIT VARIETY SHOW, HEAVEN TONIGHT.

GOOD MORNING, PRINCESS.
WE HAVE TO TALK.
I'VE GOT SOME GOOD NEWS. EARLY SALES SHOW THAT PRE-ORDERS ON "BROKEN LEASH" ARE HIGHER THAN ANY DEBUT SINGLE IN HISTORY.
WHAT NOW?

I'VE PERFORMED MY CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS-- RECORDED MY SONGS, PERFORMED IN THE VIDEO, AND DID THE INTERVIEWS.
NOW IT'S TIME YOU DO SOMETHING FOR ME.
I NEED TO HANDLE SOME PERSONAL BUSINESS OUTSIDE OF H.T.A.
LET ME GUESS-- SHINJUKU UNIVER-SITY?
THAT DREAM I HAD...
THAT'S RIGHT.
...IT FEELS LIKE MORE THAN JUST A DREAM.
MY PENDANT, TOO-- WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?
JUST THE FACT THAT I HAVE TO ASK FOR YOUR PERMISSION IS BULL.
I FEEL LIKE THAT LIBRARY HAS THE ANSWERS TO ALL MY QUESTIONS...
PERFORMED YOUR CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS ...?

BE A GOOD GIRL AND DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD.
flap
DID YOU FORGET ABOUT TONIGHT'S TV PERFORMANCE?
PRINCESS AI, YOU'RE NOT OFF THE HOOK YET. WE'VE GOT LOTS MORE TO DO.

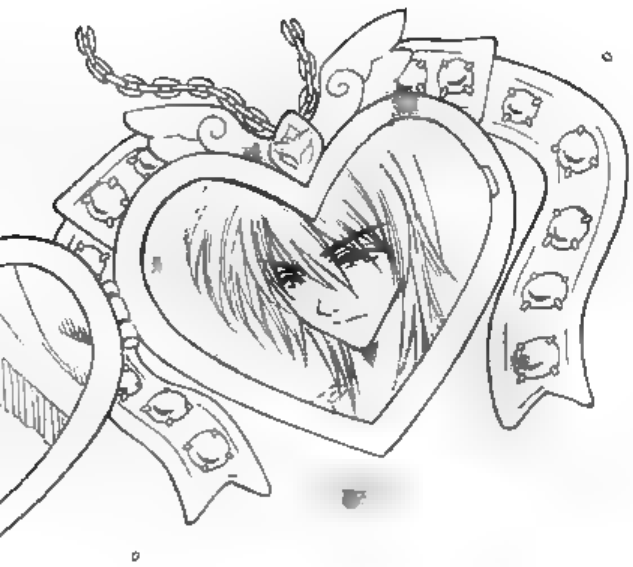
WHERE IS THAT REPULSIVE BITCH AI HIDING.
TOO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED WANDERING THESE STREETS.
?!

Princess A3
Broken Leash
SINGLE CD WITH BONUS MUSIC DVD
WELL WELL...
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
IS THE NEW ROCK DIVA...
WHO IS PrincessAi
PART BEAST?
"MANAGED BY H.T.A..."
I'VE FOUND YOU AGAIN, AI.
NOW YOU'RE FINALLY MINE!

CHAPTER

8

FIN



CHAPTER

9

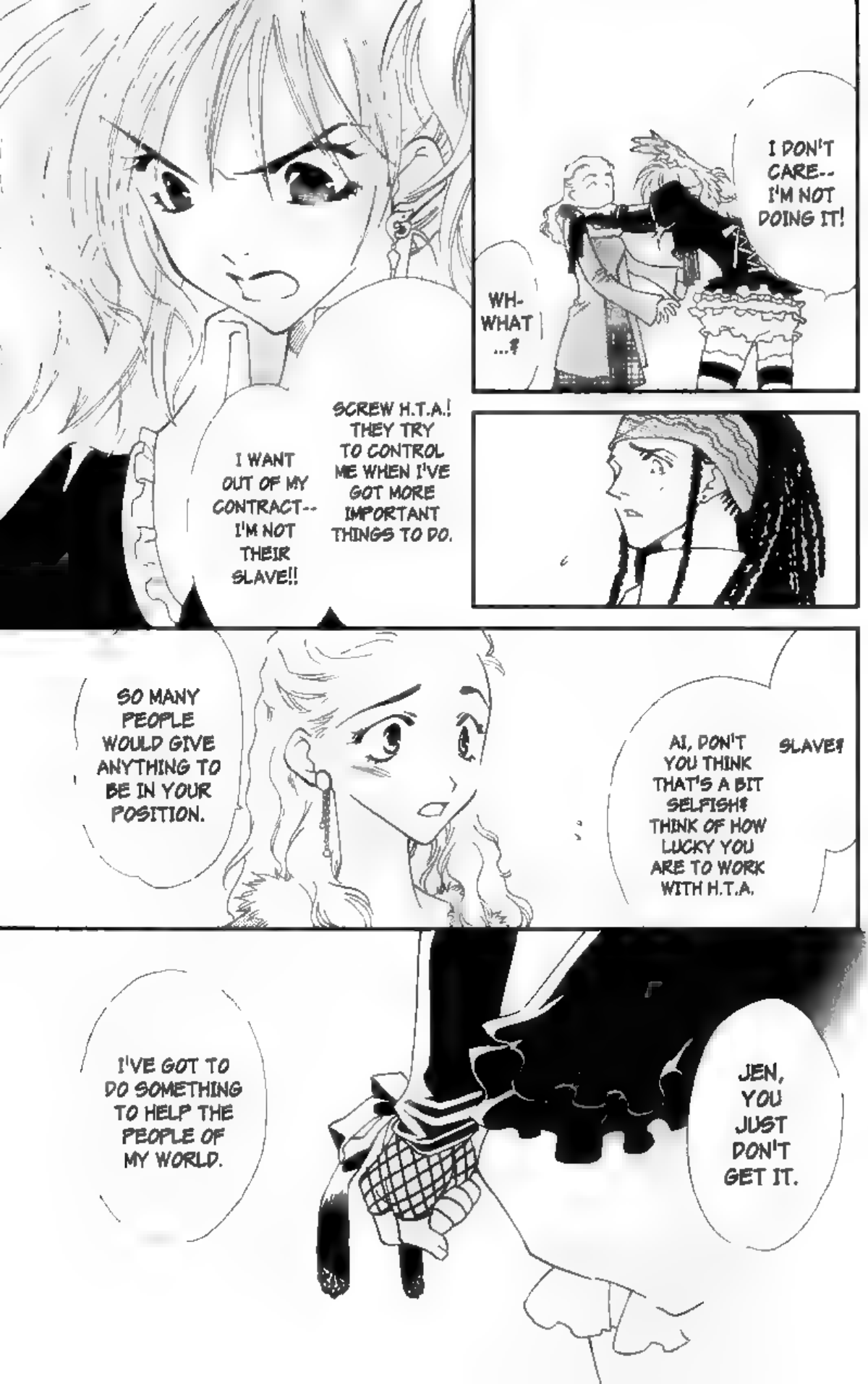
Lumination

Human Historical Myths
The End of the First
Aerial Battle Revolution

第1話

It's me--
--jen!♡
I CAME TO VISIT, AI!
JEN, YOU'RE SO SWEET. THANKS FOR BEING MY FRIEND.
I'M FREE TO HANG OUT ALL DAY.
H.T.A.
HEAVEN TONIGHT IS THE HOTTEST SHOW ON THE AIR! ♡
IT'S SUCH AN EXCITING TIME-- I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE PERFORMING TONIGHT ON TV!

Cutie's note in Japan, a store that sold a "Hare-Hare" brand applied cosmetics in much the same way as a modern day


I DON'T CARE-- I'M NOT DOING IT!
WH- WHAT ...?
I WANT OUT OF MY CONTRACT-- I'M NOT THEIR SLAVE!!
SCREW H.T.A.! THEY TRY TO CONTROL ME WHEN I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.
SO MANY PEOPLE WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO BE IN YOUR POSITION.
AI, DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A BIT SELFISH! THINK OF HOW LUCKY YOU ARE TO WORK WITH H.T.A.
SLAVE!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF MY WORLD.
JEN, YOU JUST DON'T GET IT.

BIT BY BIT, THROUGH STRANGE FLASHBACKS, I'VE PIECED TOGETHER AS MUCH AS I COULD.
NOT LONG AGO, I FOUND MYSELF ON EARTH WITH NO MEMORY OF MYSELF OR MY PAST.
I'M FROM A PLACE CALLED AI-LAND, ON THE OTHER SIDE.
I'M NOT FROM HERE, JEN.
YOUR... WORLD...?
BACK IN AI-LAND, AS PRINCESS, THE TRUTH WAS HIDDEN FROM ME. BUT I SENSED IT ALL...
MY WORST FEARS HAVE PROVEN TO BE TRUE...
BUT THIS BOOK THAT KENT BROUGHT TO ME--EVEN BACK IN AI-LAND, I HAD NO IDEA.

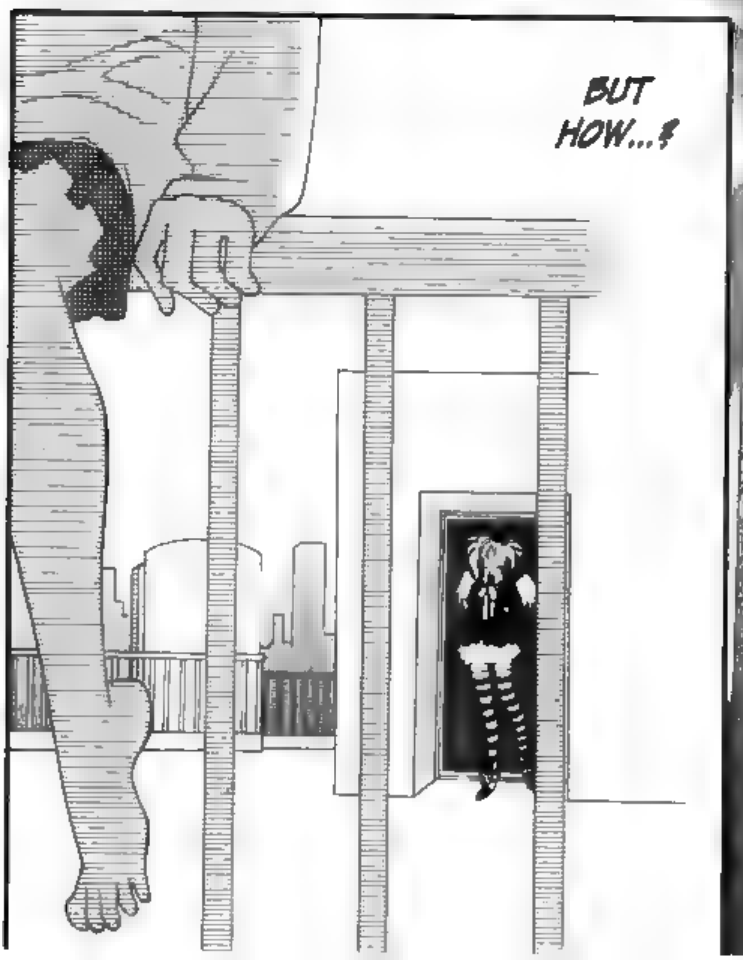
AI-LAND IS A WORLD WITH TWO SETS OF INTELLIGENT LIVING BEINGS: THE HUMAN AND THE DOUGEN.
MOST HUMANS BELIEVE THE DOUGEN ARE EXTINCT, BUT THERE ARE WHISPERED RUMORS THAT THEY STILL EXIST.
OLDER PEOPLE CONSIDER THE DOUGEN TO BE HORRIBLE, EVIL CREATURES, BUT YOUNG PEOPLE ADMIRE THE DOUGEN'S SHOCKING AND SACRED NATURE.
AGAINST MY FATHER'S WISHES, I SECRETLY LEARNED ABOUT THE DOUGEN AND EVEN GOT CLOSE TO A VERY SPECIAL ONE NAMED NORA.
THE DOUGEN LEADERS--THEIR ROYALTY--ARE THE ANGELS. ANGEL BLOOD CONTAINS TENKETSU, WHICH IS A POWERFUL SOURCE OF ENERGY ON AI-LAND.
TRAGICALLY, THE HUMAN LEADERS ENSLAVED THE DOUGEN TO CAPTURE THE PRECIOUS TENKETSU. A FEW DECADES AGO, THE DOUGEN--LED BY THE ANGELS--FINALLY ROSE UP IN REVOLUTION.
KING SEI RUTHLESSLY QUASHED THE DOUGEN REVOLUTION, UNLEASHING A RAGING CRUELTY UPON THE ANGELS.
THE BOOK DESCRIBES HOW THE YOUNG KING SEI LED THE HUMAN FORCES TO SUPPRESS THE DOUGEN REBELLION
I KNOW KING SEI VERY WELL--HE'S MY FATHER.

I NEED TO KNOW THE ENTIRE TRUTH-- ABOUT MY FATHER, ABOUT THE DOUGEN...
...ABOUT NORA... AND ABOUT MYSELF-- WHO I REALLY AM!
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANYMORE! I HAVE TO GET BACK TO AI-LAND!
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE!
THIS IS ALL SO MUCH FOR ME...
AI-- PLEASE, CALM DOWN.
SCREW H.T.A. AND SCREW MUSIC!
WHY SHOULD I SING FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND ME?!
GASP!
AI...
--WHY CAN'T YOU?!
KENT UNDERSTOOD ME--

I'M... SORRY
I DIDN'T MEAN THAT.
BUT I HAVE TO BE FREE--
--SO I MUST GET OUT OF H.T.A.
PLEASE BELIEVE ME...
...THESE DOUGEN-- AND ANGELS-- THAT I SPEAK OF...THEY REALLY DO NEED MY HELP.

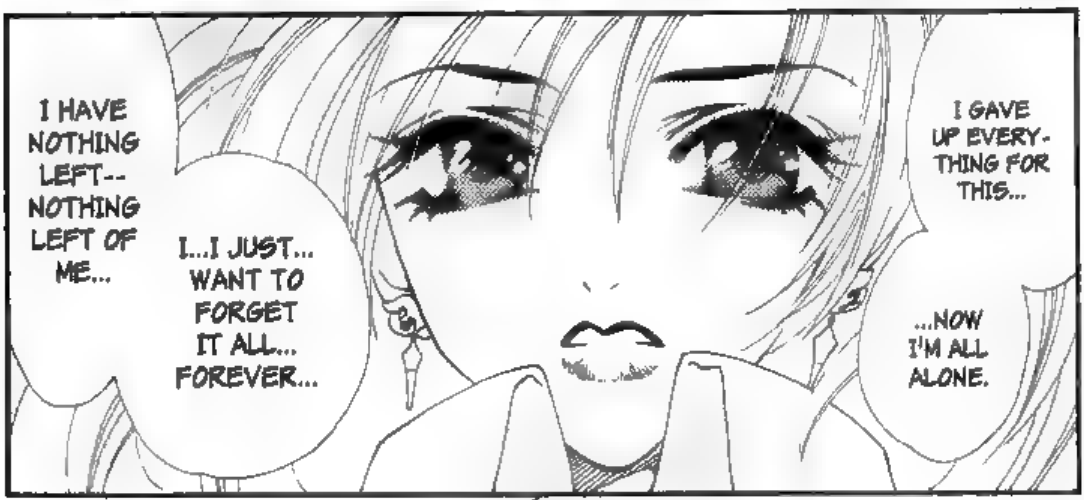
THAT FURIE--HER HATRED--HOW CAN I BLAME HER? AFTER EVERYTHING WE HUMANS--AND MY FATHER--HAVE PUT THEM THROUGH.
ABOUT TIME I FOUND YOU!

HUMANS AND DOUGEN--WE MUST UNDER-STAND AND RESPECT EACH OTHER.
THE CRUELTY, THE SLAVERY--IT HAS TO STOP.


BUT HOW...?

GET AWAY FROM ME!
ANY CLOSER, AND I'LL JUMP!
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS FINALLY ALONE...
WHAT YOU DO IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS-- I JUST CAME UP HERE TO GET SOME FRESH AIR AND WORK THROUGH SOME OF MY PROBLEMS.
GET LOST-- YOUR PROBLEMS ARE TRIVIAL.
TRIVIAL?! MY PROBLEMS ARE WAY MORE SERIOUS THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE!
FIGURES. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ME.
YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING GOING FOR YOU--I'VE GOT NOTHING.
HMPH...
I'VE SEEN YOU-- YOU'RE THAT NEW ROCK DIVA.

I...I DID EVERYTHING THEY ASKED ME TO DO.
PUT UP WITH ALL THE CRAP-- DID THE WHOLE "GRIN AND BEAR IT" ROUTINE.
AND FOR WHAT? TO BE THROWN OUT LIKE A USED NOTEBOOK?
I DIDN'T GO PLATINUM, DIDN'T GO GOLD...
...NOW MY MANAGER WON'T EVEN TAKE MY CALLS.


I GAVE UP EVERY-THING FOR THIS...
...NOW I'M ALL ALONE.
I...I JUST... WANT TO FORGET IT ALL... FOREVER...
I HAVE NOTHING LEFT-- NOTHING LEFT OF ME...

ALONE.
I KNOW THE FEELING...
...BUT...

Alone doesn't hurt anymore
The pain's too strong to feel it.
Alone doesn't work anymore
There's no one left to heal it.
If I turn my back on it all
And walk away from this place
Then maybe someone will find
These dried-up tears on my face.
Too many voices
They're far too loud
If I could leave this world
Would they all shut up
None of them mine
To hear my pain inside.
Leave it all behind
And watch my Suicide Ride?

Faith doesn't come from inside
You've got to go and get it.
Faith doesn't stay by your side
You've got to not regret it.
If I look my faith in the eyes
And let my tears flow with grace
Then maybe someday I'll find
A life for me to embrace.
Dear Mai-chan
From your biggest fan!
crinkle
Too many voices
They're far too loud
If I could leave this world
Would they all shut up
None of them mine
To hear my pain inside.
Leave it all behind
And watch my Suicide Ride?

I WAS JUST SINGING, WASN'T I?
OH, JEEZ-- THAT GIRL.. DID SHE JUMP?!
I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE-- HOW EMBARRASSING!
NO, I DIDN'T.
I HAVE TO KEEP TRYING-- NOT JUST FOR MY SAKE, BUT FOR THEIR SAKE, TOO.
IF H.T.A.'S GIVEN UP ON ME, I'LL FIND ANOTHER AGENT...
I NEED TO LOOK MY FAITH IN THE EYES-- AND FIND A LIFE TO EMBRACE.
I MAY NOT BE A STAR, BUT I DO HAVE A FEW FANS...

MY WINGS... THEY'RE GROWING AGAIN...!
THANK YOU...
...FOR YOUR SONG.
flap
flap
MY SONG...
MY SONG...!
...SAVED HER...!

IT'S TIME TO GO--YOU'VE GOT A RADIO INTERVIEW BEFORE YOUR APPEARANCE ON *HEAVEN TONIGHT.*
I'LL PERFORM--
EVEN THOUGH I HEARD YOU DON'T WANT TO PERFORM TONIGHT...
I DON'T CARE ABOUT H.T.A...
--BUT NOT BECAUSE YOU GUYS WANT ME TO.
I ONLY CARE ABOUT ONE THING: FINDING A WAY TO SAVE MY WORLD.
MAYBE--JUST MAYBE--THE POWER OF MY SONG CAN HELP...

S.D.K.TV
DON'T BE SWAYED BY THE DIVA OF DOOM!
MUSIC FROM HELL!!
Stop the evil noise!
IT CERTAINLY LOOKS THAT WAY...
STOP PRINCESS AI!!
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION? IT'S JAM-PACKED.
COULD THIS CROWD...
...BE HERE TO SEE AI?
PRINCESS AI HAS FINALLY COME TO SAVE US WITH HER ANGELIC VOICE!
IS THIS WHERE OUR SAVIOR PRINCESS AI WILL PLAY?
Savior Princess Ai!

HIS WRITINGS PROPHESIED AN ANGELIC PRINCESS NAMED AI WITH A HEAVENLY VOICE.
WE ARE NO HERETICS, BUT SIMPLY SEERS, STUDENTS OF THE WISE VISIONARY SIR EDWIN SEE.
YOU FANATICAL HERETICS-- HOW CAN YOU CALL THAT DEMONIC DIVA YOUR SAVIOR?!
YOU'RE BOTH NUTS! AI'S JUST A GIRL-- AND A CLUELESS AND OBNOXIOUS GIRL AT THAT!
.....
He's kinda right...
HELP!!
FWUNK
SHE'S A DEMON!
YOU INSULTED OUR SAVIOR!
.....
.....
はっ

THIS SONG-- IT'S JUST SO AMAZING.
LET'S LISTEN TO "BROKEN LEASH."
WE'VE STILL GOT A WHILE UNTIL THEY START SELLING TICKETS.
THE TRAIN BOUND FOR SHINJUKU WILL BE ARRIVING ON PLATFORM 3.
PRINCESS AI'S MUSIC-- IT'S LIKE IT TRANSCENDS GENERATIONS, TOO. EVEN MY PARENTS ARE INTO IT!
YEAH, I REALLY FEEL IT INSIDE ME.
LIKE SHE WROTE HER SONGS FOR ME...
--IT'S LIKE I FEEL HER AND WHAT SHE'S SAYING.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
IT'S MORE THAN JUST THE LYRICS OR THE MUSIC--
JR
PRINCESS AI
COOL SONG-- WHO IS IT?
YEAH, IT'S WEIRD.

USUALLY MY PARENTS AND I HAVE TOTALLY DIFFERENT TASTES.
They like country ..
Typical Parents..
--TO TELL HER HOW MUCH SHE MEANS TO ME.
I JUST WISH I COULD MEET PRINCESS AI ONE DAY--

TURN IT UP SO EVERYONE CAN HEAR--!
Here's the button.
REALLY?!
TURN ON THE RADIO!
ざわっ
ANYONE BRING A RADIO?!
THEY'RE INTERVIEWING PRINCESS AI ON WHOL-FM!
ALL RIGHT!! YEAH!
PRINCESS AI IS PRINCESS MINE!
DON'T BE BRAIN-WASHED BY THE DEMONIC DIVA!
WE ARE VERY LUCKY TO PRESENT THE FIRST EXCLUSIVE RADIO INTERVIEW FROM THE HOTTEST DEBUT ARTIST EVER: PRINCESS AI.
ドキドキ
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ALL THE SUDDEN ATTENTION?
LET'S GET STARTED WITH A FEW QUESTIONS.
THANKS FOR JOINING US TODAY AT WHOL-FM!

I DON'T KNOW...
.....
...I'M JUST GRATEFUL THAT PEOPLE UNDERSTAND AND LOVE MY SONGS.
SO WHAT'S YOUR SECRET? DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF MAGIC POTION?
YOUR MUSIC SEEMS TO TOUCH PEOPLE.
YOU'VE REALLY CAUSED A SENSATION.
SOME PEOPLE SAY THERE'S NEVER BEEN A ROCK DIVA AS GREAT AS YOU.
YOU'RE WITH H.T.A., THE HOTTEST TALENT AGENCY ON THE PLANET-- DO YOU FEEL LUCKY TO WORK WITH THEM?
OKAY, LET'S GO ON.
HUH?
SO... SO YOU WON'T REVEAL YOUR SECRET?
WHAT A STUPID QUESTION.

LET'S JUST SAY "NO COMMENT."
WOULD YOU FEEL LUCKY IF YOU WERE HELD IN THE HOTTEST PRISON ON THE PLANET?
.....
YOUR REALITY IS MY ILLUSION.
FINALLY, THE QUESTION EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO-- ARE YOUR WINGS REAL?

WHAT DOES ALL THIS HAVE TO DO WITH MY MUSIC?
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME.
HERE'S THE FIRST CALLER--
OKAY.
UH, WELL... THANKS FOR THE INTERVIEW. LET'S TAKE A FEW PHONE CALLS FROM YOUR FANS!
SUPER HAPPY! AI-CHAN, NICE TO MEET YOU!! I'M SO NERVOUS--!
OH MY GOSH, AM I REALLY CONNECT-ED?!
IS THAT YOU, PRINCESS AI?!
I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL MY LIFE FOR YOU--THANK YOU FOR BRINGING A LIGHT INTO MY DARKNESS.

HI, MISS AI!
I E-MAILED YOUR SINGLE TO A GUY I HAD A SECRET CRUSH ON. HE DUG IT SO MUCH--
I LOVE YOUR SONGS!
I'M GLAD I COULD HELP...
OH, WOW, THANK YOU, PRINCESS!
...AND EVEN MY PARENTS FINALLY STOPPED TRYING TO MOLD ME INTO THEM.
WITH HELP FROM YOUR SONGS, I STARTED MAKING SOME REAL FRIENDS...
I CAN'T DESCRIBE HOW MUCH YOUR SONGS HAVE CHANGED MY ATTITUDE. I WAS TIRED OF THE FIGHT--THE RAT RACE. BUT YOU GAVE ME NEW PERSPECTIVE. FOR EACH NEW SONG YOU MAKE, I GET A TON OF NEW ENERGY TO KEEP ON FIGHTING THE FIGHT.
HEY, PRINCESS AI-- I'M PSYCHED I GOT THROUGH!
--AND NOW WE'RE GOING OUT! IT'S LIKE A DREAM! THANKS SO MUCH, PRINCESS AI!
PLEASE KEEP BLESSING US WITH YOUR AMAZING SONGS!

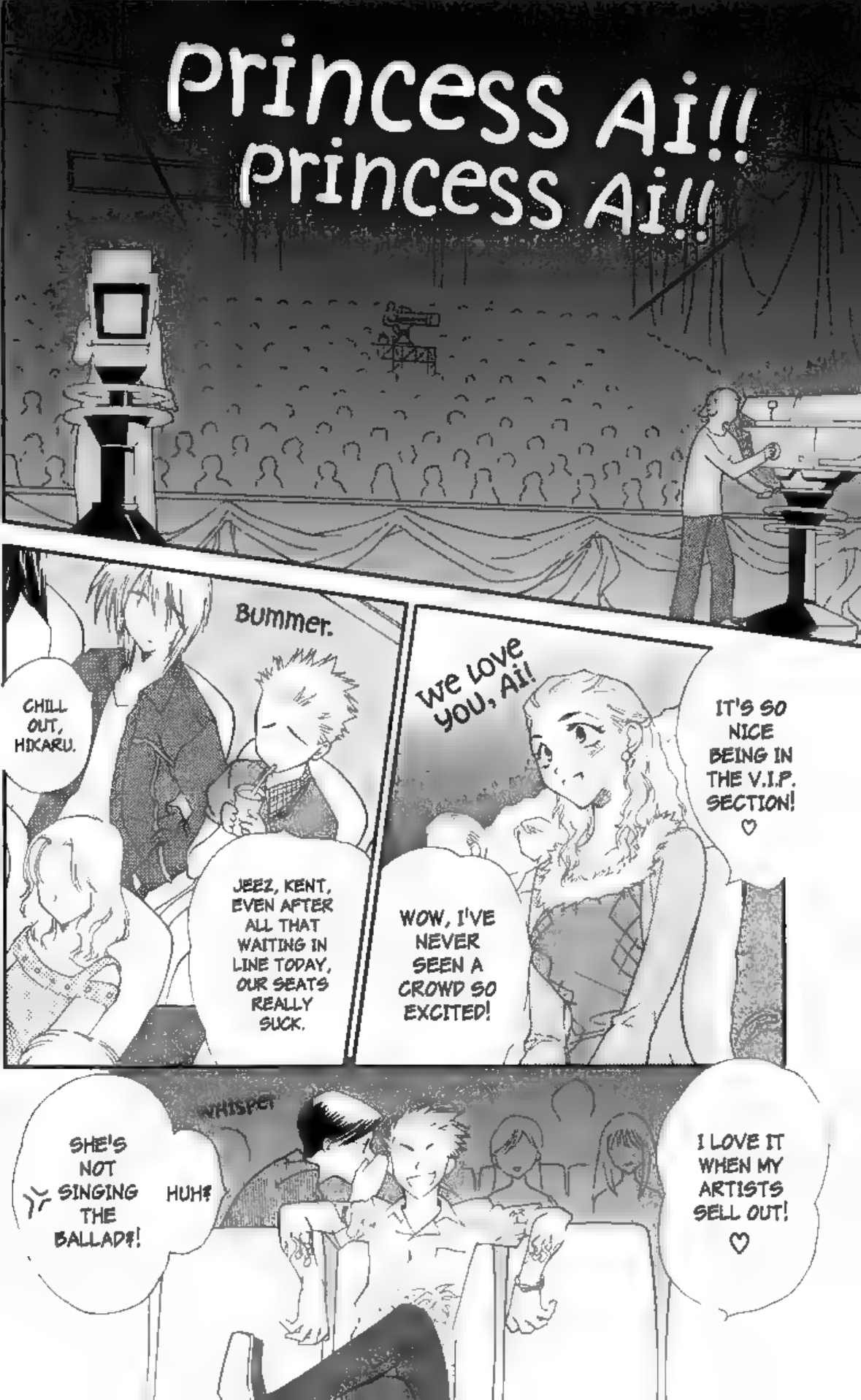
MAY I HELP YOU?
UH...
UM...
...
HELLO?
WOW, THAT'S A LOT OF GRATITUDE FOR ONE DAY. DO ANY CALLERS OUT THERE ACTUALLY HAVE A QUESTION? LET'S TRY ONE MORE CALL.
UH, YEAH.
...I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING KIND OF PERSONAL.
WELL...
weird
Hearing
my own
voice
on the
radio.

KENT?!
THAT VOICE-- IT COULDN'T BE!
I WAS KIND OF HOPING YOU WOULD.
I'VE BEEN REALLY TORN, FIGHTING BETWEEN THIS FEELING I HAVE INSIDE ME AND WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY HEAD.
OKAY, WE DON'T HAVE ALL DAY HERE-- ASK YOUR QUESTION ALREADY...
SEE, A CERTAIN SOMEONE LEFT ME BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO PROTECT ME, BUT I THINK IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAT I PROTECT HER.
...

LET ME ANSWER HIS QUESTION.
IT'S FINE.
HEY, MAN, THIS ISN'T A LOVE ADVICE TALK SHOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS PROPER AND WHAT IS NOT--AND I DO KNOW THAT IT'S EASY TO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT MANY THINGS...
WE ALL NEED TO BE THERE FOR EACH OTHER.
IF YOU IGNORE THAT, THEN YOU'LL NEVER TRULY FIND YOURSELF.
...BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT EVEN IF YOUR HEAD TELLS YOU TO NOT DO SOMETHING, THE PUREST EMOTION COMES FROM YOUR HEART.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? WOULD IT BE PROPER FOR ME TO BRING MYSELF BACK INTO HER LIFE?

SOMETIMES, TWO PEOPLE TOGETHER CAN ACCOMPLISH THINGS TOGETHER THAT NEITHER ONE COULD DO ALONE-- I'VE REALLY BEEN STARTING TO BELIEVE THAT LATELY.
REALLY?
THANKS FOR ANSWERING MY QUESTION.
I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD SHOW TONIGHT--I'LL BE THERE TO CHEER YOU ON.
YOU'LL BE THERE?!
ONCE AGAIN, I'D LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO OUR SPECIAL GUEST TODAY-- PRINCESS AI--ON WHOL-FM.
Kent's coming tonight...!!

WHAT?
I'M SUPPOSED TO SING A BALLAD?
NO WAY.
NOPE!
I'M REVVED UP AND READY TO GO--TIME FOR SOME HARDCORE PUNK!
Hmph!
What a great outfit!
TAKESHI INSISTS ON IT.
PLEASE, PRINCESS.
TAKESHI'S GONNA KILL ME...
I've got music sheets for the band, too!
KENT WILL REALLY DIG ME HARD-CORE!


Princess Ai!!
Princess Ai!!
Bummer.
CHILL OUT, HIKARU.
JEEZ, KENT, EVEN AFTER ALL THAT WAITING IN LINE TODAY, OUR SEATS REALLY SUCK.
We Love you, Ai!
WOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN A CROWD SO EXCITED!
IT'S SO NICE BEING IN THE V.I.P. SECTION! ♡
WHISPER
SHE'S NOT SINGING THE BALLAD?!
HUH?
I LOVE IT WHEN MY ARTISTS SELL OUT! ♡

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR--
--PRINCESS AI!!
Princess Ai
YEAH!
ALL RIGHT!
WOO!

Princess

WOOOOO!
AI ROCKS!
WE LOVE YOU, AI!
WOOOOO!
CRUMBLE

CHAPTER

9

FIN

CHAPTER

10

Illumination

第11話

バラ
バラ
……?!

AT LAST, WE MEET AGAIN--
--PRINCESS AI!!
KENT!
NOT THAT DRAGON-WINGED WITCH AGAIN!
TAKESHI--!!

...AND THE CAMERAS ARE ROLLING!
EVERYONE WILL SEE YOU...
TCH
ROAR
GROWL
GROWL
KEEP PLAYING.
BUT--
DO IT.
NOW BE A GOOD GIRL AND COME WITH ME SO WE CAN AVOID A MESSY FIGHT.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, PRINCESS AI?

RED ALERT-- ALL GUARDS STAND BY OFFSTAGE!
AI'S GONNA KEEP PERFORMING!
HMPH
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT LET'S TAKE IT TO THE MAT!

!
USE YOUR LIGHTING AND EFFECTS TO MAKE IT LOOK PLANNED.
KEEP THE SPOTLIGHT ON AI!

I've got you beside me,
If you trap me, you trap you.
I've got you inside me,
If you hate me, you hate you.
--ALL THE PAIN SHE'S SUFFERED... ALL THE HATRED BOTTLED UP INSIDE...
I CAN SEE IT IN THE FURIE'S EYES VERY CLEARLY NOW--
We're both the same, me and you.
We're both to blame, me and you.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY--
--THAT WE'RE THE SAME?!
GET BACK!
AI!!
KENT...!
!
I SAID GET BACK!
Okay!

YEEEAHH!!
ALL RIGHT, AI!
MUST BE... I GUESS.
WHAT A WEIRD CONCERT...
IS THIS STAGED?
It's pretty cool.
YAY!
IT STARTED KIND OF SHAKY...
...BUT I GUESS IT'S OKAY.
We're both insane, me and you.
We're both the same, me and you.
YOU HUMANS-- YOU TREAT US LIKE WE'RE THE BEASTS--

--WHEN IT'S YOUR KIND WHO ACT LIKE SAVAGES'

WHAT?!
WHO IS THAT DRAGON LADY?!
JUST DODGE THE FLAMES AND KEEP ON PLAYING!
YEOW-- THAT'S HOT!
All this fury torn and shredded up to rot...
Boiling over strapped all tied up in knots...
I'm not what you think I am...
I won't let you make me be...

?!
I've had enough of your f***ed up game!
So it's time you listen to me!
I DIDN'T RUN AWAY!
LISTEN TO YOU? A PRINCESS WHO RUNS AWAY FROM HER PEOPLE?
NO?

--TO PURSUE A CAREER IN SINGING POP SONGS, PRINCESS!!
WHACK
SO YOU LEFT YOUR HOME AND YOUR PEOPLE--
?!
IT'S LIKE A CONCERT, A PLAY AND SPORTS ALL AT ONCE!
WHAT A SHOW!

WE LOVE YOU, AI!
WE'RE ALL CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER!
PRINCESS AI, YOU'RE SO RIGHT-- WE MAY SEEM DIFFERENT, BUT WE REALLY ARE THE SAME!
THANK YOU!
flap
flap
?!

--THEY'RE GROWING BIGGER BY THE MINUTE!
HER WINGS--
WHAT THE--?!

AMONGST THE DOUGEN ANGEL WINGS MEAN NOBILITY
BUT NONE OF THE ANGELS HAVE WINGS WITH RED FEATHERS
AND HUMANS DON T HAVE ANY WINGS AT ALL
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?!
IS THE RUMOR ABOUT KING SEI TRUE?
ARE YOU --?

IT'S UP TO ME TO SAVE AI-LAND FROM ITS SUFFERING...
...AND THAT INCLUDES SAVING THE DOUGEN.
I DON'T KNOW.
RUMOR ABOUT KING SEI..?
...BUT I KNOW WHY I CAME TO THIS WORLD.
I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT MY PAST...
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHO I AM, OR EVEN WHAT I AM-- EXCEPT THAT I'M PRINCESS AI.
I'M STILL LEARNING ABOUT MYSELF AND THE POWER INSIDE ME...
THOUGH I'M LABELED HUMAN, IT DOESN'T MEAN I AM WHAT YOU THINK I AM.

...SO HELP ME HELP YOU. TOGETHER, WE CAN SAVE AI-LAND.
I CAN'T ANSWER FOR THEIR DEEDS. YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE ME, BUT I BELIEVE IN YOU.
WHY SHOULD I TRUST YOU? YOU RE A HUMAN PRINCESS- CONCEIVED AND RAISED BY THE SAME HUMANS WHO DECEIVED US.

!!!!
ALL RIGHT!
SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION!
LET'S DO THIS!
COME ON!

I've got you within me,
If you slash me, you slash you.
I've got you beneath me,
If you smash me, you smash you.
あ
あ
THAT FREAK HAS QUIETED DOWN. NOW'S OUR CHANCE-- GET HER!
!
HMPH
YANK

RUMBLE
Princess
Riiipp
AW, SHIT!!
WHOA!
THE STAGE --!!
AGGHH!!

FOR SOME STRANGE REASON I BELIEVE YOU SO IF YOU WANT TO SAVE US DOUGEN..
!!
AI!
THEN
...I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU--

--PRINCESS
Ai.

W-what the--?
S-S-surprise..
I thought I was dead.
HMPH
Some stage.
Ai...?!
Where's Ai?!

KENT!!
WHAT'S UP...?
UH...
WE'RE FINALLY TOGETHER AGAIN...
...AND ALL YOU CAN SAY IS "WHAT'S UP"?!
YOU--
--YOU JERK!

grab
whack
COME HERE, YOU!
I MISSED YOU.

I DON'T KNOW WHY, EXACTLY, BUT I KNOW THAT OUR FATES ARE LOCKED TOGETHER.
PLEASE...
YOU FOUND IT? AFTER ALL THAT? WHAT A RELIEF!
THERE'S SO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT-- LIKE THE RED BOOK...
...TAKE THIS AND WEAR IT FOR ME.
THAT WAY, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, MY HEART WILL BE WITH YOU.

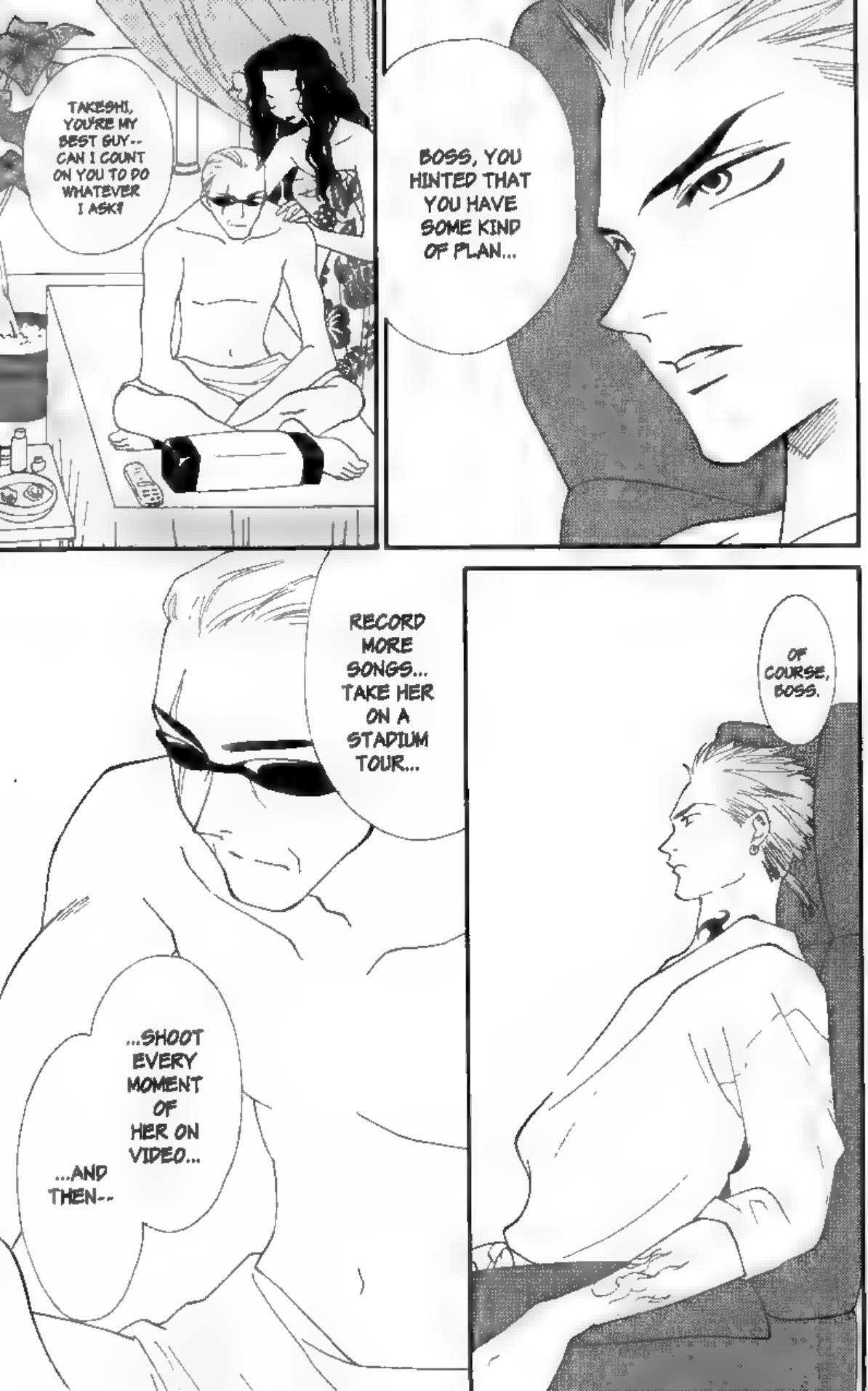
...JUST HOLD ME.
BUT, FOR NOW...

PERHAPS ABOUT YOUR SISTER TESS?
NOBLE SIR I HAVE BAD NEWS
I REGRET TO TELL YOU WHAT MY SORORAL INSTINCTS TELL ME. WHILE ON THE OTHER SIDE TESS SOMEHOW LOST HER WILL. SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED--I M NOT SURE WHAT

AI...
THAT BITCH. IF WE CANNOT BRING HER BACK HERE, WE WILL NEVER BE ASSURED OF SEALING AWAY THE HUMAN ROYAL FAMILY
MEGGI--I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SEND YOU DON'T FAIL ME LIKE YOUR SISTER DID!
I WON'T LET YOU DOWN, SIR!
THANK YOU, NOBLE ONE.

THERE WAS A BIT OF TROUBLE, BUT THE AUDIENCE LOVED IT.
GOOD JOB.
SHE GOT MY BLOOD FLOWING.
LOOKS LIKE OUR ROCK DIVA IS EVEN MORE REBELLIOUS THAN I HAD IMAGINED.
INDEED.
BY THE END OF THE WEEK, THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF TEENAGERS WILL BE HER DEVOTEES.

...SHE'S THREATENED TO BREAK HER CONTRACT... REFUSED TO COOPERATE... THERE IS A POINT WHERE ONE CAN CROSS THE LINE.
YET...
...?
NO ONE THREATENS H.T.A. AND GETS AWAY WITH IT. IT'S TIME WE TAKE OUT INSURANCE.
HOW?
PROBABLY SANG PARTS OF MAYBE THIRTY SONGS OR SO, IF NOT THE WHOLE THING.
WOW, I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE-- SHE WAS INCREDIBLY PROLIFIC.
TAK-ESHI--
--HOW MANY SONGS DID OUR ROCK DIVA RECORD IN THE STUDIO?


TAKESHI, YOU'RE MY BEST GUY-- CAN I COUNT ON YOU TO DO WHATEVER I ASK?
BOSS, YOU HINTED THAT YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF PLAN...
RECORD MORE SONGS... TAKE HER ON A STADIUM TOUR...
...SHOOT EVERY MOMENT OF HER ON VIDEO...
...AND THEN--
OF COURSE, BOSS.

--TAKE HER OUT.

CHAPTER

10

FIN

DMM Songs

Share
and
Die!!!

BONUS

Lumination

Princess Ai

Bonus Side Story

...A TRIP FOR TWO.
CHECK IT OUT-- I WON A TRIP TO AN ONSEN...
♡
An "onsen" is a natural hot spring - a great place for a relaxing weekend away from the hustle and bustle of city life in Tokyo
I'LL PAY FOR ONE MORE TICKET--SO WE CAN ALL GO TOGETHER IN PEACE.
Humor me.
WHO'S THE FREE-LOADER HERE?!
YOU FREE-LOADER-- THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GOING!
ぎゃあ
ぎゃあ
NO, I'M GOING WITH KENT!!
I'M GOING WITH KENT!
DO YOU GUYS WANT--
Yay, an onsen!
It's a Date!
So, the trio headed off to a luxurious onsen resort--
-but would it really be as peaceful as Kent had hoped...?
GRR!
GRR!

WOW, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PLACE! ♡
I LOVE VISITING A RYOKAN-- IT'S SO RELAXING. ♡
HEY, IS THIS A CASTLE?
AI
DON'T BE STUPID.
HIKARU
SHUT UP!
*Ryokan: a traditional Japanese inn
I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME..
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN. SIGH.
Ai and Hikaru's luggage
LOOK-- THE RYOKAN'S NOT THE ONLY BEAUTIFUL THING. CHECK OUT KENT IN HIS YUKATA-- YUMMY!
*Yukata, a light, cotton, summer kimono.
SPLASH
男湯
MEN
天然
OH WELL-- KENT, I GUESS IT'S JUST US GUYS. ♡
HEH HEH.

AHHH...
Peace at last.
WHAT? THIS IS DISCRIMINATION! I WANNA GO IN, TOO!!
I didn't come all the way here just for a shower!
GET AWAY! YOU'VE GOT TO CHILL OUT, HIKARU--TRY A COLD SHOWER.
NO WAY AM I LEAVING YOU ALONE WITH KENT!
DINNERTIME!
A ROYAL FEAST!!
OOOH!
THAT FULL MOON...
IT REMINDS ME OF A FAIRY TALE I HEARD AS A KID.
...IS SO INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL.
ABOUT A YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL TEMPTRESS WHO CHARMED ALL THE PEOPLE SHE MET. IN THE END, SHE LEFT EARTH FOR HER HOMELAND, THE MOON--LEAVING THE ONE WHO LOVED HER LONELY FOREVER.

HE PULLED A FEW ALL-NIGHTERS THIS WEEK FOR FINALS...
HIKARU FELL ASLEEP.
LOOK..
--A FULL MOON!
MM.
Zzz I'm stuffed!
IN THE END, THE MOON PRINCESS DIDN'T TAKE HER EARTH LOVER HOME WITH HER.
IT'S FUNNY...
...HOW MUCH THAT SILLY FAIRY TALE REMINDS ME OF AI.
I HOPE SHE CAN'T HEAR MY HEART POUNDING RIGHT NOW...
That night
But I booked two rooms
SIGH..

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

Princess Ai's journey of discovery continues...but our tempestuous Princess may not like what she finds! As more outrageous assassins arrive from Ai-Land, H.T.A. unveils its plan to turn their hot new diva into a falling star. Even with Kent by her side, can Ai avoid her enemies and still find a way to bring peace to her troubled homeland?

Don't miss the final stage of Ai's development: Evolution!

Princess Ai lyrics

This volume featured four original *Princess Ai* songs. For your enjoyment, we've included the full lyrics. For more information about these songs and D.J. Milky, check out www.djmilky.com!

"Broken Leash"
© 2004 D.J. Milky (BMI)

Kept away while the earth cries
Swept away by all his lies
Not ready to go but it's time to leave
Already too low to get up and plead

Made to feel something inside
Far too real, too much pain to hide
Not ready to run but my feet won't stay
Already too done for these birds of prey

CHORUS
Woof woof there's no looking back
That one shot at freedom through the looking glass
Bow wow no more broken beast
Just rip off this collar with that broken leash

Woof woof there's no looking back
That one shot at freedom through the looking glass
bow wow no more broken beast
just rip off this collar with that broken leash

Tied up with knots that won't unwind
Fed up with cruel dreams acting kind
Not ready to jump but I won't look down
All ready to dump everything around

Look at my hands what they reveal
Shook by one glance what they conceal
Not ready to hit what I just can't see
All ready to quit what I can't set free

CHORUS
Woof woof there's no looking back
That one shot at freedom through the looking glass
Bow wow no more broken beast
Just rip off this collar with that broken leash

Woof woof there's no looking back
That one shot at freedom through the looking glass
Bow wow no more broken beast
Just rip off this collar with that broken leash

"Primal Fury"
© 2004 D.J. Milky (BMI)

I've got you inside me
If you hate me, you hate you.
I've got you beside me
If you trap me, you trap you.
I've got you within me
If you slash me, you slash you.
I've got you beneath me
If you smash me, you smash you.

We're both the same, me and you.
We're both to blame, me and you.
We're both insane, me and you.
We're both the same, me and you.

You can't live without me
If you kill me, you kill you.
You won't care about me
If you mock me, you mock you.
You don't look before me
If you use me, you use you.
You don't see beyond me
If you lose me, you lose you.

We're both the same, me and you.
We're both to blame, me and you.
We're both insane, me and you.
We're both the same, me and you.

All this fury torn and shredded up to rot
Boiling over strapped all tied up in knots
I'm not what you think I am
I won't let you make me be
I've had enough of your f***ed up game
So it's time you listen to me

We're both the same, me and you.
We're both to blame, me and you.
We're both insane, me and you.
We're both the same, me and you.

We're both the same, so f*** you.
We're both to blame, so f*** you.
We're both insane, so f*** you.
We're both the same, so f*** you.

"Seraph Serenade"
© 2004 D.J. Milky (BMI)

(You're my)
Angel back in heaven
Lost among the free
Trapped up in that tower
Looking down upon my plea
If only I could climb up there,
and sort through your debris
(I'd bring this)
Angel back to heaven
For all eternity

Gritty demented cloth
Covering up flesh born to rot
Lace wound up so tightly and taut
That bitter screams of breath would get caught

Bloody circumcised heel
Kicking in the doors made of steel
Stiletto razor-sharp so surreal
That sunny dreams of death wouldn't feel

(You're my)
Angel back in heaven
Lost among the free
Trapped up in that tower
Looking down upon my plea
If only I could climb up there,
and sort through your debris
(I'd bring this)
Angel back to heaven
For all eternity

Dirty penalized belt
Whipping up trouble with each pelt
Leather stained so worn it could melt
That haunting demonic rage with one welt

Musky vilified veil
Smothering cries of living hell
Dust choking cries to such avail
That holy waters rise with one wail

(You're my)
Angel back in heaven
Lost among the free
Trapped up in that tower
Looking down upon my plea
If only I could climb up there,
and sort through your debris
(I'd bring this)
Angel back to heaven
For all eternity

Angel back in heaven
Lost among the free
Trapped up in that tower
Looking down upon my plea
If only I could climb up there,
and sort through your debris
Angel back in heaven
Captured just for me.

"Suicide Ride"
© 2004 D.J. Milky (BMI)

Alone doesn't hurt anymore
The pain's too strong to feel it
Alone doesn't work anymore
There's no one left to heal it
If I turn my back on it all
And walk away from this place
Then maybe someone will find
These dried-up tears on my face.

PRE-CHORUS (alternating lines)
Poor thing (I can show them all)
She could have been so
Pretty so thin (What they never could see)
She could have been so
Smart so rich (Once they watch my fall)
She could have been so
Loved so blessed (They'll finally notice me)
She could have been but
She never got a grip (If I just lose my grip)

CHORUS
Too many voices
None of them mine
They're far too loud
To hear my pain inside
If I could leave this world
Leave it all behind
Would they all shut up
And watch my Suicide…Ride?

Faith doesn't come from inside
You've got to go and get it
Faith doesn't stay by your side
You've got to not regret it
If I look my faith in the eyes
And let my tears flow with grace
Then maybe someday I'll find
A life for me to embrace

PRE-CHORUS (alternating lines)
Poor thing (I can show them all)
She could have been so
Pretty so thin (What they never could see)
She could have been so
Smart so rich (Once they watch my fall)
She could have been so
Loved so blessed (They'll finally notice me)
She could have been but
She never got a grip (If I just lose my grip)

CHORUS
Too many voices
None of them mine
They're far too loud
To hear my pain inside
If I could leave this world
Leave it all behind
Would they all shut up
And watch my Suicide…Ride?

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Princess Ai™

Ai's rock-n-roll star is on the rise... but this winged princess from another world is about to learn that there is always a price to pay for fame. Torn between her love for Kent and her concern for his safety, Ai must struggle against assassins from her homeland, conspirators from her record company, protestors on the streets and her own conflicted emotions as she continues her search for the cure to Ai-Land's many woes.

The adventure and romance heats up in *Princess Ai: Lumination*, the next volume in the bestselling manga series!

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T TEEN AGE 13+

FANTASY